Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-95-201 *18 October 1995*

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Reportage on Ibero-American Leaders at Summit

Spain's Gonzalez Meets Castro

PY1710150295 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0549 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche (Argentina), 17 Oct (EFE) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said on 17 October that evolution similar to that taking place in the rest of the Ibero-American continent can take place in Cuba.

After meeting Cuban leader Fidel Castro, the Spanish prime minister did not want to make too many comments on this meeting. He used discretion to avoid saying if he had asked Castro to change his political attitude.

Gonzalez noted: "He (Castro) already knows my opinion and so do you. I believe there can be good evolution in Cuba, similar to that of the rest of the continent."

Gonzalez and Castro held a one-hour meeting after the conclusion of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit's first session. Gonzalez told journalists they mainly reviewed relations between the EU and the Americas, specifically Cuba, on which "there are some possibilities of holding talks."

The Spanish prime minister emphasized that these talks do not involve the issue of political prisoners in Cuba. After describing as "prudent" the speech Castro delivered on the morning of 16 October at the summit, Gonzalez said he is satisfied that the final declaration will not include open condemnation of the U.S. embargo.

Gonzalez said: "It is good to take a step forward. It is not necessary to be rude, but elegant." Asked if he was alluding to the United States being rude, Gonzalez noted that it is not necessary to take such an attitude with this "or with any other country."

Gonzalez, who on 16 October also met the presidents of the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), pointed out that the Interregional Framework Agreement [Acuerdo Marco Interregional] that the Mercosur will sign with the EU in December represents a new phase in the relations, establishing organized political talks.

As a result, the Group of 15 foreign ministers will periodically meet the Mercosur foreign ministers.

More on Gonzalez-Castro Meeting

PY1710134195 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0952 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Article by Marisol Marin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche (Argentina), 17 Oct (EFE) — Cuban President Fidel Castro describes as "adequate" the resolution at the Ibero-American Summit, which, in an elliptical fashion and without specifically mentioning anyone, "rejects" the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

After emphasizing that the economic organizations controled by the United States are very powerful and saying that "we cannot be extremists," Castro said: "I believe the resolution is adequate; the adversary is very powerful and we cannot ask the people to burn themselves out."

In remarks to a group of Spanish journalists, after a one-and-one half-hour meeting with Spanish Government President Felipe Gonzalez, Castro expressed his gratitude for Spain's negotiations in favor of Cuba. With a broad grin, Castro said: "It is the mother country's duty toward its offspring."

In the resolution, which will probably be signed on 17 October, the Ibero-American presidents "reject" the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, but refrain from using this term or mentioning the two countries.

In former Ibero-American summits, the presidents limited themselves "to recommend the elimination of unilateral coercive measures." Now, recommendations have become a "rejection."

At his hotel in downtown San Carlos de Bariloche, Castro — smiling and seemingly content — talked about his change of attitude at international forums, his relationship with Argentine President Carlos Menem and with other Ibero-American counterparts, and did not refrain from using the comparison "David and Goliath" to refer to relations between Cuba and the United States.

The first time Castro replaced his olive green uniform with a loose shirt [guayabera] was last year at the Ibero-American Summit in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia).

That was the turning point. Since then, Castro baffled everyone in Denmark and France by wearing an elegant blue suit, with a classic tie. He said he now has six suits and 10 ties designed by a Dutch friend.

The Cuban leader noted: "If I go to the United States, however, I may have to again wear a uniform because it seems that, after reading General Colin Powell's book, they like them."

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Discussing the Ibero-American summits, Fidel sarcastically said: "My counterparts constantly grumble and read the manual to me [me leen la cartilla], but on this occasion they have piped down."

Either as a result of the economic reforms implemented by the Cuban Government or the probable approval of the Helms-Burton bill, the fact is that Castro encountered a friendlier atmosphere at this summit than at all former summits.

Castro specifically mentioned Argentine President Carlos Menem, who, until recently, was the worst critic of the Cuban regime, saying: "Life is a dialectical process. We are only human. He has been friendly and gentlemanly with me. He is the host and this fact carries weight. Nevertheless, we have always been friends. I send him tobacco, and he sends me wine from La Rioja — not from La Rioja in Spain. I feel very proud to receive this wine."

Castro emphasized that the probable approval of the Helms-Burton bill "will not change anything." He said: "It will merely make us more revolutionary." He added: "We are not the problem. It is a U.S. problem because the United States wants to impose its conditions on the world."

This bill, which has been significantly challenged by Ibero-American countries and by the EU, seeks to reinforce the economic embargo on Cuba through sanctions against foreign entrepreneurs who invest in assets expropriated from U.S. companies or citizens after the revolution's victory in 1959.

Castro said his talk with Felipe Gonzalez was a "fraternal and friendly" encounter. This was obvious by the way the two leaders affectionately shook hands like old friends when saying goodbye.

Fidel said: "We talked about everything, the Soviet Union and our ideas." He added that if Europe wants Cuba to make some signs, "it must also make signs to us, without any conditions."

Discussing changes in his country, Castro said they involve "an orderly opening." He added: "We are lifting our heads and learning to save and be efficient."

Nevertheless, Castro emphasized time and again that this opening "does not involve giving up our ideology."

Alluding to expressions of support in Uruguay and here in Bariloche, the Cuban leader emphasized: "The people always side with David, not with Goliath. We have always been faithful and loyal. We have never been opportunists. Nations understand this message, despite the propaganda."

Gonzalez, Menem Discuss Cuba

PY1710140295 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1628 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by Jesus Garcia Becerril]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, Argentina, 16 Oct (EFE) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez expressed opposition to the implementation of unilateral measures that might hurt Cuba because he understands that such measures will not contribute to the evolution of the Cuban state through a path similar to that followed by other countries in the continent.

According to Gonzalez and Foreign Minister Javier Solana, the Spanish Government policy on Cuba is characterized by a rejection of the U.S. embargo and by the belief that Cubans must design their own future.

Spanish official sources have stated that on 16 October Gonzalez discussed the Cuban situation with Argentine President Carlos Menem in a vague and generic way, without mentioning terms like embargo, democracy, or the United States' role.

Gonzalez and Menem met in Bariloche before the official start of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit. The two leaders agreed that unilateral measures will not facilitate Cuba's evolution or its incorporation and integration into the region.

The two presidents said they favor the creation of a mixed fund to finance Spanish-Argentine cooperation projects and confirmed that Menem will be in Madrid in December to sign the Inter-regional Framework Agreement between the EU and Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

The Spanish prime minister participated in the meeting of the so-called "Group of Guatemala's Friends" within the framework of contacts with other leaders attending the summit. Representatives of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala participated.

During that meeting representatives evaluated the peace process involving the Guatemalan Government and the guerrillas, Guatemala's current difficulties, and the mid-November elections.

Gonzalez, who currently presides over the EU, announced that the EU is considering sending 30 observers to the Guatemalan elections.

In his summit speech Gonzalez said Spain plays an important role in the "growing" sensitivity of European countries over Ibero-American affairs.

The Spanish leader said he favors intensifying both continents' relations as a contribution to Ibero-American

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countries' efforts to consolidate democratic processes, respect for human rights, and to participate in world trade.

Gonzalez insisted on Spain's potential role as a country and as a member of the EU, the entity that occupies first place among donors of public aid for Ibero-American development. The EU contributes a little more than 60 percent of the total donated to the region.

Gonzalez warned, however, of the existence among Ibero-Americans of problems like drug trafficking, corruption, unemployment, and the weakness of state institutions. He called for joint cooperation to face these problems with education as the basic element favoring development.

This afternoon Gonzalez is scheduled to meet with representatives of the four Mercosur partners (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), with Colombian President Ernesto Samper, and with Central American representatives.

Gonzalez will discuss with Central American leaders the possibility of EU cooperation for regional integration projects such as an electricity network connecting the five states.

The sources said that Gonzalez will also meet with Portugal's President Mario Soares to comment on the new situation in Portugal following the victory of the Socialist Party in recent legislative elections and the prospects for presidential elections next January.

Portugal's Soares on Timor, Embargo

BR1710153895 Lisbon JORNAL DE NOTICIAS in Portuguese 17 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "With Timor in Their Suitcases" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Portuguese President] Mario Soares and [Foreign Minister] Durao Barroso raised a common issue — East Timor — at the Ibero-American summit in Bariloche, Argentina. Durao Barroso expressed his hope that, apart from the final communique, it will be possible for Portugal to speak out at the Ibero-American summit in defense of the people of Timor.

Durao Barroso stressed that East Timor, which was referred to for the first time at the Bahia conference in 1993, "is the only instance outside the regional context normally mentioned in the communiques of Ibero-American summits."

"Now, since the situation is deteriorating, I hope that, apart from a reference to the problem in the final communique, we will have an opportunity to refer to the issue in our bilateral talks and in the actual meeting of the Ibero-American summit," he said. The situation in East Timor is one of the topics that President Mario Soares will be discussing with his opposite numbers in Latin America. Minister Durao Barroso also welcomed the support for Portugal's candidacy to membership of the UN Security Council expressed at the Bariloche summit, adding that Portugal is a Ibero-American country, whereas the rest are from other geographical and linguistic areas.

"Be that as it may, there are countries that had already made earlier pledges, so it was necessary to find a means of safeguarding them," Durrao Barroso said.

"However, the vast majority of Latin American countries will vote for Portugal's joining the Security Council in next year's election," he added.

Asked about Portugal's position on the embargo against Cuba, which has already prompted a statement from the Argentine president on the eve of the summit, Durao Barroso said that Portugal supports the efforts for Cuba to become a democracy.

"I believe that there have been a series of important developments in Cuba, especially with regard to greater openness in the economic field, and that perhaps the best way to help the Cuban people now would be to lift the embargo," he added.

Castro: Socialism To Remain

PY1710195595 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1537 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 17 Oct (TELAM) — Cuban State Council President Fidel Castro emphasized here that international circumstances have imposed the changes that his government is implementing. He warned, however, that Cuba will not become a capitalist country.

"Cuba does not plan to become a capitalist country. We will remain a socialist country with openness and with some necessary changes. We want to improve Socialism. Circumstances have imposed the changes on us," Castro said.

At Bariloche's Trunquelen Hotel last night, the Cuban President held a brief dialogue with a small group of journalists, after the meetings he held with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso, and European Union Vice President Manuel Marin Gonzalez.

Accompanied by his Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, Castro emphasized that "Cuba's greatest deed is having resisted the embargo."

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He emphasized that "Cuba is an example of courage. We rewrote the history of David and Goliath, but Goliath is still alive and more powerful than ever."

Regarding his regime's future, he said "we want to improve socialism. The internal changes are the deepest ones since the revolution," the Cuban leader said, warning that "we will not retreat."

During the dialogue with the journalists, Castro mentioned his friendship with Diego Maradona, about whom he said: "He is a great player and I am very happy that he resumed playing soccer. President Menem told me about the goal he scored last Sunday."

For his part, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said that his country "is introducing changes because international circumstances have imposed them on us."

He explained that "those changes do not mean that Cuba has been defeated, because Cuba is the same Cuba of yesterday, today, and tomorrow."

Robaina last night took the floor at a ceremony sponsored by groups of solidarity with Cuba in Bariloche. In his brief speech, Robaina said that "in our country we have a slogan that says: 'We have already done what is impossible to do, and for a miracle we only need time'."

Addressing some 100 people at the Municipal School 16 gymnasium here, the Cuban diplomat conveyed a message from Castro. He also conveyed his thanks for the expressions of solidarity.

"Fidel asked me to convey to you a greeting along with sincere gratitude for the solidarity gestures, which no embargo can prevent," says a message by the Cuban president that was read during the meeting.

Robaina concluded by saying that "Cuba will remain a socialist country, because we believe it is the right path, and even if you hear about changes, rest assured that such changes will be made with no conditions whatsoever. We like the place where we live, the climate we have, and we will not leave our island."

Zedillo on Improving Education

PA1710160495 Mexico City Radio Red Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Victor Manuel Suberza from Bariloche, Argentina; from "The Night Monitor" newscast — live relay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Fifth Ibero-American Summit began here this morning with the topic of promoting education for development. The presidents and chiefs of state meeting here recognized that education is the key to the development of the regional countries. [passage omitted]

Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo also participated and noted the importance of improving certain aspects of education. He defined certain aspects to which education should be directed. Zedillo said we must educate for peace, fraternity, cooperation, and also for democracy:

[Begin Zedillo recording] Let us instill in the new generations the democratic principle that policies must be oriented toward the search for consensus, without undermining differences and the freedom to criticize, and must be directed toward the essential unity of each nation in the pluralism of all society. [end recording]

Zedillo Holds Private Meetings

PA1710161595 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0426 GMT 17 Oct 95

[By Fernando Sanchez Marquez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct (NOTIMEX) — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo today held private bilateral meetings with his Costa Rican, Brazilian, and Portuguese counterparts, within the framework of the first day of activities at the Fifth Ibero-American Summit.

Of those meetings, only the contents of President Zedillo's talks with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso were known. They discussed matters pertaining to the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) and the political situation of both countries.

After those meetings, President Zedillo bade farewell to his wife, Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo, who traveled to Asuncion, Paraguay, to participate in the Fifth Conference of Wives of Heads of State of the Americas.

According to his agenda, President Zedillo will hold two bilateral meetings tomorrow, one with Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina and the other with Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol.

Tomorrow morning, Zedillo will attend the first working session of the second and last day of the Ibero-American Summit, and he will participate in the third session at approximately 1100 (1400 GMT).

Approximately two hours later, the heads of state will participate in the closing ceremony of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit at the Llao Llao Hotel, prior to signing the Bariloche Declaration and convoking the sixth regional summit, to be held in Chile in 1996.

A medal symbolizing the Fifth Summit will be presented to the presidents during the closing ceremony.

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After the summit, President Zedillo will attend a ceremony during which UNESCO will present awards. This will be his last activity in Bariloche.

Afterward, Zedillo will be transported to the Bariloche international airport where he will board a Mexican Air Force plane to return to Mexico City, where he is expected to arrive the night of 17 October.

Chamorro: Embargoes 'Ineffective'

PA1710202595 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Maria Alicia Talavera from the "Extravision" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a special report from San Carlos Bariloche, Argentina, site of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

This afternoon, President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro told journalists she does not believe in blockades against certain nations, in reference to Cuba. This topic is being discussed outside the agenda of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit. It is being said that it is possible the presidents could demand the lifting of the blockade against the island. President Chamorro clarified, however, that the Cuban issue was not included in today's session attended by the heads of state and government here at the Llao Llao Hotel in San Carlos de Bariloche.

Today's session focussed on education, which is the main topic of the summit. She did not rule out the possibility that tomorrow the Ibero-American presidents could discuss the subject, which by all means is one of the most relevant outside the official agenda prepared in advance for the Bariloche summit. Let us hear what President Chamorro said to the media this afternoon regarding the Cuban issue:

[Begin recording] Embargoes against countries are ineffective. It is said that unity makes us stronger. I believe countries facing difficulties such as Cuba, as Nicaragua once was, should solve our problems within our boundaries. [end recording]

Those were President Chamorro's remarks on Cuba. In addition, she delivered a speech before the Fifth Ibero-American Summit on education, summarizing her government's achievements in this field during the past five years. President Chamorro noted the need to offer new educational values. Saying we want an overall and better quality education is not enough, she said. We must firmly promote education based on specific values such as the family, democracy, peace, and reconciliation, she added.

Today, President Chamorro held several bilateral meetings. She met with IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] President Enrique Iglesias, the UN and OAS secretaries general, as well as with her Central American counterparts, invited by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Chamorro also attended a meeting of coffee producing countries along with her counterparts from Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras. The representatives from these countries expressed their concern over speculative factors responsible for the drop in the price of coffee in international markets.

The Bariloche summit will end tomorrow at noon with the closing ceremony and the signing of the final document by the presidents and heads of state who are meeting in this southern Argentine city.

Samper 'Grateful' for Support

PA1710162695 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Oct 95

[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Santa Fe de Bogota — President Ernesto Samper Pizano today said he was, frankly, very grateful for the support given to him by all the continental chiefs of state. He said that in their speeches at the inauguration of the Ibero-American Summit in Bariloche, the chiefs of state had declared their solidarity with our country's situation.

President Samper spoke via telephone from Bariloche to the reporters of this newscast and said that the support given to Colombia was total and that all the presidents had expressed great solidarity with Colombia in its struggle against this scourge.

The president was about to go to the last meeting of the summit where the presidents are to give the finishing touches to the Ibero-American Declaration. President Samper said the presidents will probably broach the Cuban issue with more firmness at this meeting, adding that all the work done at the Argentine city has been fruitful.

Samper on Lifting Cuban Embargo

PY1810031295 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0037 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mendoza, 17 Oct (TELAM) — Colombian President Ernesto Samper noted the success of the Ibero-American Summit because, among other things, it discussed the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba.

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Samper said: "For the first time there was talk of endorsing the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba."

He also mentioned that the summit took into account the fact that the U.S. Congress is discussing laws "designed to make the economic embargo on Cuba more burdensome." He said that in view of this, the Bariloche summit's recommendation is opportune.

The Colombian president made a brief stopover at El Plumerillo Airport together with Costa Rican President Jose Figueres Olsen, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, and Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

The Colombian Air Force aircraft left straight for Cartagena after refueling.

Cuban President Fidel Castro had arrived earlier at the military sector of the Fourth Military Brigade under strict military surveillance, and some 45 minutes later left for his country without making any comments.

During a brief chat with journalists, the Colombian president said the Ibero-American summit "adopted concrete measures regarding the subjects we had been summoned to discuss, such as education for the agro-industrial sector and the decentralization of education."

Samper mentioned "the agreement to summon a world summit to discuss drug trafficking, because it is not only a problem of the producer countries but also of the drug-consumer countries."

He ended by stating that "all resources of a society must be used to fight drug trafficking."

Menem Discusses Cuban Ties

PY1810032795 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1951 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, 17 Oct (NA) — President Carlos Menem asserted today that both he and his Ibero-American counterparts would have "no problem whatsoever" in mediating between Cuba and the United States, although he made it clear that "that will depend" on whether the veteran leader, Cuban President Fidel Castro, makes a formal request for that. Menem once again demanded of Castro the democratization of the Caribbean island.

This notwithstanding, the Argentine head of state did not specifically mention the U.S. Government when he commented that the summit meeting that was brought to a close today demanded the cessation of "coercive unilateral measures," like the long-drawn-out embargo on trade with Cuba enforced by the United States.

Chilean President Eduardo Frei, for his part, confirmed his administration's decision to formally join Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and to counteract criticism of Chile's isolationist policy, he asserted that Chile's "main interests lie in Latin America."

As soon as the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government was over, Menem and Frei called a news conference at the press room of the Llao Llao Hotel, which was packed with more than a hundred reporters.

In broaching the issue of the embargo, Menem recalled that the text [of the final declaration dealing with this issue] "was put together by the Cuban delegation. We added a paragraph on a bill that is currently under discussion in the United States," thus referring to the so-called Torricelli Act, which is in favor of tightening the embargo [as received].

The Argentine head of state went on to say: "In other words, that text was propounded by Cuba, and we cannot out-Herod Herod; that is more than obvious."

"We are endeavoring to make the Cuban president embark upon a political opening alongside the economic opening that he is now furthering. Still, let us not forget that there are fundamental international principles regarding nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other nations," he pointed out.

Menem further stated: "We have talked about freedom, democracy, and full respect for human rights, but in a general way, so that people may take a hint. We have made great strides in the democratization of the entire Western Hemisphere and have been most successful, but in this case, it is up to the Cuban head of state to take the initiative."

In reply to another question, the Argentine president asserted that negotiations on a framework agreement on cooperation between Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries and the EU are "well under way," adding that the agreement will be signed between 11 and 15 December in Madrid during a ceremony to be attended by all the presidents of both blocs.

Going back to the subject of Cuba, a reporter asked Menem whether he thought that there had been any changes in his relationship with Castro in light of the fact of the fact that it was possible to see a greater rapprochement between them. The president replied humorously: "The one who changed was the commander — he came to this summit meeting dressed in a suit and tie rather than in a military uniform."

Menem reiterated that he maintains "excellent relations" with the Cuban leader "at a personal level," but at

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the same time they radically differ on the issue of the democratization of the island.

"I know by experience what it is to be in jail; there is no need for others to tell me about that. We agree on the economic opening, so much so that NAFTA member countries like Canada and Mexico are doing excellent business with Cuba. Besides, never forget that Argentina was the first country to break the U.S. blockade on Cuba in 1974, at a time when General Peron was in power," he said.

The head of state reported that during this summit meeting "I have held informal, rather than formal, talks with the Cuban president, and, concerning that issue, there is, for the time being, no possibility of reaching agreement."

"Many countries demand that Castro release political prisoners, respect human rights, and all the rest we already know about. In other words, there have been no substantial changes. We have normal relations with Cuba, we hail the economic opening it is furthering, but as regards the other things, there has been no progress at all," he added.

Menem said he did not know whether the Cuban commander had proposed, during his meetings with other heads of state, a timetable for Cuba's democratization. "As far as I know, he did not," noted Menem.

Asked to comment about the relationship between education and development — which was the central subject of the summit meeting — Menem did not fail to mention that in Argentina, schooling will become an asset to have more chances to obtain a job.

The president said that at present, the upward trend in unemployment "has leveled off" and that by the end of the year, unemployment "rates will be lower than the average one."

He subsequently spoke in favor of transferring schools under the jurisdiction of the federal government to the provinces and municipalities, asserting that this initiative "is indicative of the veritable federalism demanded for years by several social sectors."

With regard to the possibility of promoting the return of Cuba to the OAS, Menem reiterated that his stance on this issue was that "Cuba must democratize" first.

The Argentine head of state went on to say: "We would welcome and endorse Cuba's reinstatement in the OAS — whose members are precisely countries that live in democracy and freedom — if it engaged in a political opening."

At the end of the news conference, both Menem and Frei took pains to underscore the Ibero-American summit's "total and absolute" condemnation of all types of nuclear tests, whether in the Pacific Ocean or at laboratories, even though the final declaration did not specifically mention France or the PRC.

Menem Closes Summit

PY1810013395 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Speech by Argentine President Carlos Menem at the closing of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government from the Llao Llao Hotel in Bariloche, Argentina — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [In progress] ...underway in 1945, Lieutenant General Juan Domingo Peron, who was president of all Argentines for three terms.

During his long years of exile, 18 years, he lived in Venezuela, Santo Domingo [Dominican Republic], Spain, and Paraguay. Those peoples came to know about his capabilities and his talents, and subsequently they helped him return to his fatherland, where he was reelected, or elected, for a third term in office.

Evidently, the spirit of friendship and conciliation prevailed during this summit, and this is what has permanently encouraged us since that historical, and first, summit in Mexico, in the city of Guadalajara.

We have received this first-rate report, proposal, brief, that contains fundamental aspects that refer to the possibilities of growth and development in our countries.

We have also had the good fortune to hear the words of the UN secretary general, the secretary general of the OAS, the president of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the representative of UNESCO. This has evidently further enriched this summit.

But basically we have discussed education and science and technology so that at the threshold of the second millennium we will be in a position to successfully enter the world of learning, knowledge, and communication.

Of course, this is not just for ourselves; it is also for our children and for future generations.

We have said here, in a clear-cut way: There is no possibility of talking about freedom if we are not prepared for that freedom on the basis of education.

And we must permanently sustain this. Education as a style of life. Education as an exclusive policy of the state. Education at the primary, secondary, technical, and university levels. Education to prepare the worker, who, it is evident, cannot dedicate himself only to a profession.

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The world is changing so much that man has to be prepared for those changes. And, suddenly, the person who has a job as a bricklayer may have to take on a job as a driver of a taxi, a truck, or any other vehicle. Or perhaps the driver will have to take on a different job in order to subsist and live with dignity.

This is the importance that we want to give education, beginning with learning and knowledge.

Of course, we have reaffirmed the concept of democracy, of freedom, of justice, and of the absolutely necessary peace that we must obtain between all of us, and not only the countries of Ibero-America.

A definitive peace on the basis of faith and love on our planet.

But, it is not only this. We have also discussed a new proposal that pertains to relations; not just trade relations, but also political relations between the old and new worlds, between the European Community and the Latin American Community in this case. Between Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the EU, between Mercosur and Chile, Bolivia, and other countries in the area. Between the EU and the Andean Pact, with the integration process occurring in Central America. Ultimately, between the EU and all countries that are actively working to overcome difficult situations such as those that are currently affecting this part of the world.

We have also referred, with wisdom and talent by some of those who participated in these debates, to topics that offend us, that anger us, that we are concerned about, that distress us, such as the corruption that evidently affects the democratic system and weakens the ethical ideals of the community.

We also agreed — here we were clear and categorical — on the need to fight drug trafficking and terrorism without pause, without mercy. We also concurred on the need to combat subversion and every other type of violence that assaults our peoples, our communities, our countries.

That is why we fully support countries such as Guatemala that are concluding a long process of disagreements between brothers, as we have supported those countries that have suffered the horrors of war and, in particular, those that have suffered fratricidal wars.

The presidents were very clear when speaking about drug trafficking and money laundering. Here the blame and responsibility must be shared. Large drug consumers want the blame to fall on those who plant the raw materials used to manufacture drugs. We cannot accept this. It is essential to be severe with those who produce drugs, but also with those who consume them. This is necessary basically because the large resources, the $500 billion to which the Colombian president referred during the opening session, do not stay in the countries that produce the raw material. The resources remain in the large countries that have a high level of consumption.

We have also discussed our vocation for peace, as I have said previously. And we all agreed, absolutely all of us, on the need to eliminate all types of coercive and unilateral measures against certain countries, anywhere in the world. This is in accordance with Article Eight of the communique, with the addendum that everyone knows about and that will be given to the international media during the news conference that we will hold after the closing of the summit.

Again I wish to thank you for your attendance, and of course, God willing, we will be together in Chile with the same vocation, with the same faith, with the same determination, and with the obvious talent of my colleagues, in order to continue the debate on these problems and in order to give the appropriate answers to them.

Thank you very much, and may God bless you. Thus, I declare the Fifth Ibero-American Summit closed. Thank you very much. [applause]

Ibero-American Summit Results, Issues Viewed

Consensus Rejects Embargo of Cuba

PA1710173695 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Guillermo Rodriguez from Bariloche, Argentina; from "Caracol's Quarter Hour" newscast—live relay]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Caracol Network learned just a few minutes ago that a consensus was finally reached following a lengthy debate by the Ibero-American heads of state and government, 18 in all, and the 21 delegations on the topic of Cuba. Ibero-America is speaking out against the commercial blockade, and there is a new paragraph with a view to rejecting the measures the U.S. Congress is planning to impose on Cuba because it is a different regime. The Ibero-Americans do not regard the intensifying of the embargo as viable and, thus, reject it.

The debate on Cuba was lengthy and was the most important issue. As we reported in our headlines, an agreement was reached on the French nuclear tests, although France and China are not mentioned. The

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heads of state and government are confident there will be no more nuclear tests in 1996.

Ibero-America's thorny issue—that is, the Cuba issue—finally exploded after the participants, Cuban President Fidel Castro included, reached a consensus leading to a document in which they reject the embargo based on the fact that the world trade union, or the World Trade Organization, rejects the imposition of unilateral measures by the States. The new paragraph deals with Ibero-America's concern over certain measures the U.S. Congress my impose on Cuba to intensify the economic embargo decreed in 1962.

This is the consensus agreement on the document on education, cooperation and political, social, and economic accords of the Ibero-American summit, which comes to an end with a news conference by the Colombian, Argentine, and Chilean presidents; that is, representatives of the summits in Cartagena, Bariloche, and the upcoming one in Santiago de Chile.

Approves Pact on Educational Programs

PY1710124495 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2014 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 15 Oct (TELAM) — The foreign ministers of countries participating in the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government today signed a cooperation agreement to implement 13 programs linked to education.

The agreement was signed at the Llao-Llao Hotel after the first foreign ministers' plenary session. The ministers decided "to prioritize" Ibero-American education cooperation through 13 programs and some 20 initiatives.

Carlos Zaballa, Argentine Foreign Ministry international cooperation under secretary, said today: "The agreement seeks to regulate Ibero-American countries' cooperation and to implement the proposals of our presidents."

The signing of the framework agreement by the foreign ministers thus becomes the first concrete achievement of the Fifth Ibero-American summit. The presidents arrived today in Bariloche and will start deliberating tomorrow.

Zabala and Jose Luis Dicenta Ballester, Spanish under secretary for cooperation with Ibero-America, were commissioned to inform the press about the agreement signed by the foreign ministers.

Zaballa said: "The framework agreement signed by the foreign ministers, which must be ratified by each country's Congress, seeks to implement programs and fulfill our presidents wishes."

The Argentine diplomat said the Ibero-American summit received 117 proposals, of which only 13 became programs and 20 will be kept as initiatives.

The diplomats explained that the difference between the two is that programs are funded while initiatives are not.

Dicenta Ballester recalled: "During previous summits many programs were lost for lack of funds. This is why many people think these meetings achieve nothing."

One outstanding program is called "University-Enterprise." This program facilitates procedures for Ibero-American students and private companies.

It was announced that this program has a budget of $2 million and will use another $10 million that will be provided by universities and private companies.

It was reported that other summit pet project is the program for an Ibero-American Education Television service. UNESCO has offered to extend television transmission to small communities and municipalities, while Mexico will cooperate in technical areas.

Zabala said: "Cooperation between Ibero-American countries must change from just another form of assistance to become a concrete exchange," adding: "Particularly considering economic improvements in countries like Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, and Brazil."

More on Educational Policy

PY1810025095 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1844 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by unidentified special correspondents]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 17 Oct (TELAM) — The presidents and heads of state who participated in the Fifth Ibero-American Summit in Bariloche today considered that the educational and cultural development of the community is a fundamental factor for the consolidation of democratic political systems.

In a document covering everything pertaining to education, the heads of state expressed their decision to promote an "ever more integrated" Ibero-American community, and that for this to happen, they consider that "authentic cooperation in the educational sector is necessary."

They affirmed that it is very necessary to promote education as "a social policy" and to advance in the democratization of education "in order to create measures that will concretely eliminate illiteracy, the lack of schooling, and the tendency to drop out of school."

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To this effect, they expressed their "commitment to promote an efficient use of state and private resources for education," because they consider that "expenditures on education must be considered as a social investment."

In the document, the heads of state also maintain that there is the need to implement a "significant, progressive, and sustained increase" of the resources.

The document states that education "needs to be complete and integrated in face of the reality that is being consolidated by the globalization of economic activities."

It also specifies that a complete quality education presupposes the formulation of policies that contemplate "equal access, permanency, and the advancement of the population, thus striving for ever-increasing degrees of social equality."

The document states that within the framework of that defined policy for education "the acquisition of knowledge and development of courses is important for the undertaking of a profession, for facing daily life, and for ensuring the participation of the citizenry."

It also points out the need for "revising the traditional models of professional education with the participation of the various social actors, such as the family and the enterprise."

In the conclusions of the document, the Ibero-American heads of state support the "promotion of the values of democracy, solidarity, and tolerance as the basis for a peaceful and harmonious coexistence at the primary and secondary educational levels."

They also highlight, as an impact of improved education in Ibero-American nations, the fact that it will allow "the incorporation, in labor activities and society, of existing human resources through new and flexible employment policies."

The heads of state add that education must be considered as a factor for "stimulating intellectual curiosity and inquisitiveness from an early age" because they understand that it is the starting point for the development of scientific and technological research.

"The understanding of the link between science and technology and society as the basis for the development of a culture of innovation" is also detailed in the document, and the importance of "the intensive use of the most modern educational methods" is noted in addition.

In this respect, they consider that it is necessary to promote reading and that the various educational institutions must have well stocked libraries "with an eye to contributing to a greater dissemination of knowledge."

Highlights of Final Declaration

PY1810023495 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1518 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, 16 Oct [date as received] (NA) — The Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government today officially rejected, but without specifically mentioning any country, the U.S. trade embargo on Cuba, as "it violates the principles governing regional coexistence and the sovereignty of states."

In addition, in a clear reference to the demands for greater political opening raised with the government of Commander Fidel Castro, the Declaration of Bariloche emphasizes: "Democracy and respect for human rights and for the basic freedoms of human beings represent basic tenets for the Ibero-American nations."

The political stance of the presidents and heads of government, expressed in the Declaration of Bariloche, was read at noon today at the Llao Llao Hotel, during the summit's close, after two days of sessions.

In the passage on the U.S. embargo on Cuba, the presidents and heads of government, "in accordance with the principles established in the UN Charter, the World Trade Organization, and international law, and by the UN General Assembly resolutions," reject "the unilateral coercive measures that affect the well-being of Ibero-American nations, prevent free trade and honest and universally-accepted trade practices, and violate the principles governing regional coexistence and the sovereignty of states."

The heads of government are "convinced of the necessity of designing and implementing specific and broad strategies against corruption." They reiterated "their commitment to implementing mechanisms of cooperation to struggle against this criminal activity, as it undermines democratic systems and tarnishes the prestige of institutions, represents a factor of social disunity, and misrepresents economic systems."

The presidents also "deeply" regret "all nuclear tests, specifically those recently carried out by the People's Republic of China and France."

The heads of state and government go on to say that "any test of that sort constitutes a potential risk for health, security, and the environment." They therefore "call upon all nations to put an end to nuclear tests."

They reaffirm their "solemn commitment to continuing the fight against the use, production, and trafficking of

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drugs, as well as related crimes," and expressed their conviction "that should this fight result in failure, it may represent a threat for Latin American societies and our democracies."

The heads of state and government confirm their support "for the drafting of an Inter-American Convention on Money Laundering," and agree to "work jointly so that the main consuming countries take, with greater lucidity and decisiveness, their share of the responsibility in devising a solution to this problem."

They reaffirm "our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and we reiterate our pledge to jointly and resolutely combat, through use of all legal means, this scourge that violates human rights."

Inspired by the desire to further relations with other geographical areas sharing the same culture, they consider that "the fact that Spain is at present presiding over the EU has been most important to give fresh impetus to relations between Latin America and Europe."

"Proof of this is the agreement reached in Montevideo on 29 September 1995 between the EU and Mercosur [Common Market of the South] member countries on the signing of an Interregional Framework Agreement on Cooperation during the European Council of Madrid to be held this December, as well as talks initiated with Chile and Mexico to reach agreements that will deepen economic, trade, and political relations, and the recent dialogue launched with Cuba."

In another of the some 40 points comprising the final declaration, the heads of state and government acknowledge "the strides and achievements made in the peace and reconciliation process in Guatemala." They thus decide "to support the efforts currently being made by its government, and we urge the feuding parties to reach a sound and lasting peace."

They reiterate, at a time when the 50th anniversary of the United Nations was celebrated not long ago, their "resolute support for the principles and objectives that inspired its establishment, and we solemnly commit ourselves to strengthening the invaluable role of the United Nations as a privileged forum for dialogue and consensus between the Ibero-American nations and the rest of the international community."

In keeping with situations that have been prevalent in Argentina over the last few years, the heads of state and government deem that "development and the quality of settlements, housing, basic infrastructure, and the environment must be given top priority when designing our countries' economic and social policies."

They went on to say that "to that effect, resources will be allocated to meet the needs of the people, particularly of the poorest and most vulnerable strata, by coordinating efforts between the central, regional, and local governments and through initiatives by the private sector and the grass roots."

The summit meeting, moreover, "welcomed the Latin American Parliament initiative geared to establishing a Latin American Community of Nations."

In point 37 of the final declaration, the heads of state and government deemed "it important to put together social action plans at schools to prevent AIDS, trying to involve the entire society, — families, the work place, and schools."

Further on Final Declaration

PY1810021395 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1954 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by special TELAM correspondents in San Carlos de Bariloche]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bariloche, 17 Oct (TELAM) — The Ibero-American heads of state and government closed their Fifth Summit with a sharp condemnation of corruption, drug trafficking, and, in a subtle allusion to Cuba, with a repudiation of coercive measures against international trade.

The "Bariloche Declaration," comprising 41 points, was signed today by the heads of state and government of 21 countries. It contends, moreover, that "democracy and respect for human rights" constitute "essential values for the peoples of Ibero-America."

The heads of state and government concluded their two-day summit meeting held at the Bustillo Hall of the Llao Llao Hotel with the signing of a political document on "Matters of Special Interest" pertaining to international affairs.

Following the two working sessions behind closed doors, the heads of state and government approved two other documents on "Education" and "Cooperation."

The embargo on trade with Cuba imposed by the United States at the beginning of the 1960's was one of the points that extensively occupied the time of the heads of state and government during the deliberations. They finally opted for an elliptical reference to the embargo in the final declaration, which does not specifically mention the Caribbean island. [passage omitted]

The heads of state and government deemed that unilateral coercive measures "violate the principles governing regional coexistence and nations' sovereignty."

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The text goes on to say that "we see with real concern at the moment the regulation amendments which are currently under discussion in the U.S. Congress, which would be out of alignment with those principles whose application we are demanding."

This latter paragrapn, which was added to the final declaration some minutes prior to the end of deliberations, hints at a bill sponsored by Republican congressmen in Washington to stiffen and amplify the embargo on trade with Cuba.

The final declaration, moreover, "deplores" nuclear tests, especially those recently conducted in the Pacific Ocean, and calls upon the international community to put an end to this type of experiments. [passage omitted]

The summit meeting concluded with a joint news conference by Argentine President Carlos Menem and his Chilean counterpart Eduardo Frei, who will be the host of the Sixth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in 1996.

The participants in this summit began to leave Bariloche in the early afternoon after having attended a farewell cocktail party organized by the Argentine president in honor of the foreign delegations at the Llao Llao Hotel.

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Highlights of Fifth Conference of First Ladies Viewed

Mrs. Clinton Described as 'Distinguished Protagonist'

PY1810021195 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fifth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas included a debate today. The great social problems that prevent development, such as health and education, were the main topics discussed on the first day of this event, which is taking place in our country.

[Begin correspondent Angelica Galeano recording] Mrs. Clinton was the first speaker: She spoke about the results of the Symposium on Infancy. She stressed that it must be acknowledged that there are needs, but that there are also opportunities.

Speaking about the plan for the elimination of measles by the year 2000, she indicated that the appropriate financing of the campaigns is being sought from international organizations. One of these is AID, which supports the efforts to eliminate the main illnesses of children in the region.

Within this context, the First Lady stated that we hope to obtain $8 million to contribute toward the elimination of diseases.

The reduction in maternal mortality was another subject that was discussed [words indistinct] and she stated that 100 million women do not take advantage of the services of family planning programs because they have not received an adequate education.

Twenty million women have resorted to abortion, many of whom have died — deaths which could have been prevented [words indistinct] on human reproduction.

In this respect, Mrs. Clinton indicated that in order to achieve these goals it is necessary to pay more attention to primary preventive care and emergency medical care together with family planning as the best and more accessible methods to save lives, especially in poor countries.

Referring to the educational sector, the First Lady of the United States said that investment must be made in educating young girls by improving the overall quality of education. One of the goals is to achieve a 100 percent primary education rate and a high secondary school matriculation rate by the year 2000.

Finally, Mrs. Hillary Clinton expressed her satisfaction when she launched the Association for the Revitalization of the Education of the Americas, and announced $3.7 million in U.S. aid, which will be the initial funding for the plan of action over a five-year period.

She pointed out that events such as this summit are opportunities to submit and adopt ideas and strategies that will help the people.

During the debate on the elimination of measles and the immunization of the children of the Americas, Mrs. Betty Watson de Reina, first lady of Honduras, referred to the progress of the national plan in her country. It is the only plan of this type in Central America that has reached and surpassed the goal of immunizing 95 percent of the children through massive vaccination campaigns.

At the conclusion of the addresses of the first lady of Panama and the special envoy from Venezuela, the delegations took a break and posed for the official summit photograph. Afterward, the national plan for the elimination of measles was launched in a symbolic ceremony with the participation of children under the age of five. The children even received the vaccine from the first lady of Ecuador, who is also a nurse.

The conference then resumed with the debate on the project for the prevention of the use of psychotropic substances among street children in the Americas, which will continue tomorrow.

It must be highlighted that the national media did not participate in this part of the program because it was not allowed on the premises. [end recording]

U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton departed for her country this afternoon. She was the distinguished protagonist at the summit being held in our capital.

Viewed as 'Pleasant'; Media Access Criticized

PY1810023495 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2023 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Asuncion, 17 Oct (AFP-NA) — [passage omitted] As was to be expected, Mrs. Hillary Clinton arrived in Asuncion on 16 October with a strong security contingent, to participate in the Fifth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas.

Some journalists told television and radio stations that more than 100 White House bodyguards ran rings around the non-U.S. journalists who had been accredited to the first ladies' forum, and banned them from covering the debates.

In contrast, the joviality expressed by the U.S. First Lady, the few times she was seen in public, left the local public with a pleasant impression.

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Some women who participated in morning radio programs agreed that they were enchanted with "la Hillary," especially after hearing her speak on 16 October at the opening of the Fifth Conference.

On that occasion, President Clinton's wife called for an end to violence against the weaker sex, and she defended women's rights to be educated, healthy, and to have the same job opportunities as men. "The welfare of women and children is a key point for the development of our countries," she said. [passage omitted]

Cuban Envoy Notes U.S. 'Economic Discrimination'

PY1810030595 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Oct 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilma Espin Guillois [Cuban Communist Party Politburo member], Cuba's special envoy to the Fifth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas, has stated that even if the various countries manage to get the U.S. Government to lift its blockade once and for all, U.S. multinational companies will maintain a policy of economic discrimination toward the island that Fidel Castro rules.

Espin explained that these very same multinationals will continue boycotting progress in Cuba because, according to her, these companies are so powerful that they even decide who will govern the United States.

"Current economic problems including those caused by this longstanding blockade cannot be resolved at once. I believe that if the blockade is lifted, things will get better, but it will take years to reestablish relations because the multinational companies are very powerful, to the point of deciding, together with the two main economic power groups [not further identified], who will rule the United States," Espin said.

She added: "To say that the blockade is officially over does not mean that everything will open up. On the other hand, the U.S. businessmen do not have a chance to invest in Cuba and they are currently protesting because their own government is discriminating against them by depriving them of the opportunity to invest in Cuba."

Fidel Castro's special envoy also discussed Cuba's progress in health and education. She emphasized that Cuba has first-rate social benefits.

"All Cubans work for the well-being of people as a whole. This is why despite the blockade we have better health and education services than our sister nations in Latin America," Espin emphasized.

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Cuba

Government Authorizes Official Exchange Houses

PA1710135995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0015 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 10 Oct [NOTIMEX] — It was reported here today that the Cuban Government for the first time in 36 years has authorized official exchange houses where the public will be allowed to sell one U.S. dollar in return for 25 Cuban pesos.

Without any prior announcement, the exchange houses, a novelty under this socialist regime of 35 and a half years that has prevailed on the island, started operations on 7 October in three Havana farmers markets.

The quote of 25 Cuban pesos per U.S. dollar is the same as the one being offered on the currency black market, while the Central Bank maintains a par rate between both currencies.

Several observers have said the rate being applied entails an acknowledgement of the real value of the Cuban peso and its corresponding de facto devaluation.

Farmers market employees provide their clients with a receipt reflecting the exchange transaction.

Individuals exchanging U.S. dollars at the farmers markets where produce is sold at prices regulated by supply and demand have said they will not have to offer higher exchange rates to their clients.

The new installations, which function out of small offices with one cashier, two computer assistants, and two Interior Ministry guards, is owned by "CADECA, Inc.," a stock company that is a joint venture with a Spanish firm, according to certain sources.

CADECA, Inc. began operations three months ago in certain luxury hotels in Havana, although are limited to exchanging U.S. dollars for other currencies.

The "CADECAS farmers markets" are a one-way operation, because several employees have said they were unaware as to whether the sale of hard currency to the public would be authorized in the future.

The CADECAS also accept convertible pesos, which in local business operations carry a value equal to the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies.

The Cuban Government decided in August 1993 to legalize the holdings of U.S. dollars and other currencies by individuals as part of a package of cautious reforms aimed at overcoming the economic crisis.

Unofficial sources estimate at least 50 percent of the people in Havana and between 20-30 percent in the other provinces of the country have access to U.S. dollars through various means.

Those Cubans who regularly receive currency from relatives abroad, work in the tourism sector or foreign companies, or receive bonuses from their firms have now become the best clients of the exchange houses.

The Cuban peso was being sold at one point last year at up to 120 per U.S. dollar, but the authorities, through a dynamic program to reorganize its finances, were able to reduce excess monetary liquidity, which only discouraged discipline and labor productivity.

The excess money in the hands of the people, mostly concentrated in small groups, is still estimated at somewhere between 9.2 billion pesos, while the average wage of a state worker is 200 pesos per month.

Report on Increasing Presence of Foreign Branch Banks

PA1710145595 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Report by Marianela Samper; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cuban banks were nationalized 35 years ago. The banking system and its employees are now working on the revamping of the national banking system. They have been working together and making necessary consultations with higher authorities and once there is agreement, documents regulating this activity will be drafted.

If we observe the Cuban banking system, we will notice that new institutions have appeared, including the International Commerce Bank Inc. [Banco Internacional de Comercio S.A. — BICSA], dedicated, basically, to operations with freely convertible currency to finance our foreign trade.

There are private clients that deposit their resources in that bank.

Let us have Raul Amado Blanco, vice president of the National Bank of Cuba, continue explaining this.

[Begin Blanco recording] This is happening not only with BICSA but with other banks of the banking system, specifically in our National Bank of Cuba and in some agencies of the People's Savings Bank [Banco Popular de Ahorros].

A national financing organization has also been created. It is working on short-term services. It is not a banking institution. It is an institution under the supervision of the central bank because it is a financial institution dedicated, as we have said, to short term financing of

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foreign trade operations and of operations related to tourism, etc., in Cuba.

Recently an enterprise that will be dedicated to the establishment of exchange houses in our country was created. Four houses have already been established. The idea is to expand throughout the country and we will give this emphasis depending on the results of the first four. This is a private enterprise and it is also under the supervision of the National Bank of Cuba but it functions in a totally autonomous way. [end recording]

In recent years, the growing presence of foreign bank branches in Cuba has become evident. This makes obvious the interest the international banking system has on being in close contact with what is happening in the island's economic, financial, and banking sectors.

[Begin Blanco recording) We have representatives of Netherlands banks, banks from Curazao, England, and Canada, and a growing presence of Spanish banks, as well as the presence of banks from the Middle East.

I must say that right now we are considering four or five license requests and I believe that by the end of 1995 we should have approximately 13 or 14 Spanish banks in Cuba. Undoubtedly, this facilitates our work and that of Cuban [word indistinct] because it puts them in very close contact with their foreign counterparts, and the banks find it very suitable to be here because this allows them to closely follow the developments of our economy, and of the businesses on which they are investing, or in which their clients are interested and this presence is very important for the banking sector. [end recording]

The vice president of the National Bank of Cuba said there are plans to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the central bank in our country on 20 November.

Important international banks have announced their attendance. The meeting will take place in Havana. Undoubtedly it will serve to further strengthen relations with banks from throughout the world.

Castro Meets With Summit Heads of State; Robaina Cited

PA1710185795 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1412 GMT 17 Oct 95

[By Francisco Forteza]

[FBIS Translated Text] San Carlos de Bariloche, 17 Oct (PL) — President Fidel Castro held bilateral meetings with the heads of state of Paraguay, Costa Rica, Peru, Spain, and Brazil within the framework of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit, which will conclude in this city today.

A Cuban delegation source has told PRENSA LATINA every meeting was held in a climate of friendship. According to the same source, the heads of state and government who participated in the conference reject the U.S. blockade, and the final document to be issued this Tuesday is expected to refer to this action using terms stronger than the ones employed in previous meetings of this nature.

Castro has received numerous signs of support from the people of this Patagonian city since arriving on 15 October. The most important of these functions took place the night of 16 October at a midtown school. Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina was also in attendance.

In response to a question by this correspondent, Robaina said he was satisfied with the climate Cuba is finding at the summit as well as on the streets of Bariloche, "where we have received an ample demonstration of affection and solidarity."

He said an attitude critical of the aggressive U.S. measures is perceived among the Ibero-American heads of state, "and although we may think differently on certain issues, we have points in common, especially in the field of education, the fundamental topic of the presidential summit."

During last night's solidarity function, which was also a party to collect funds for Cuba, Robaina told approximately 3,000 people who had gathered at the gymnasium of San Carlos de Bariloche School No. 16 that if his country has survived the situation it has faced, it was also thanks to international solidarity.

The foreign minister relayed regards sent by President Fidel Castro to Cuba's friends. Speaking at the event, he said "the revolution will not disappoint you and will continue to further socialism."

Afterward, Robaina told the Cuban media that in the assessments of the U.S. blockade of his country made at the summit, "you could observe that an overwhelming majority of the governments on the continent are on our side."

He said the presidents who met at that summit perceive this U.S. action as unacceptable and said he expected them to refer to the issue "with greater strength that on previous occasions."

He said Cuba's prestige in the field of education, a basic issue broached at the conference, is very high and reiterated the evidence indicates the island has the

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largest amount of teachers per capita in the world, just as Fidel Castro stated in his speech yesterday.

"In the field of education, the Ibero-American forum is defending positions Cuba has upheld for the past 35 years," he said.

He said the attitude of the governments represented at this summit regarding the island is largely due to the fact that "our image as a country that has needs has been dwindling after five very hard years, and we are now a country that also has things to offer."

He said several of the presidents here have confessed they would want their nations to have Cuba's levels in education, public health, and sports.

Regarding statements on the blockade, which in certain cases have been contradictory, made by Argentine authorities, the foreign minister said statements given to the media under certain circumstances should be used as a guide and clarified that the evolution to more positive positions is irrefutable.

He mentioned two [as received] fundamental factors for this evolution: Cuba's ability to resist, the visible start-up of its recovery, and the enormous aggressiveness of the blockade's reinforcement measures, which are being studied by the U.S. Senate.

"Not only do they attack Cuba's sovereignty, but they attack third countries, and this is unacceptable for the governments," he said.

Castro Arrives in Cartagena for Nonaligned Meeting

PA1810043095 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0332 GMT 18 Oct 95

[By special correspondent Frank Gonzalez]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cartagena de Indias, 17 Oct (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived today in this Caribbean city of Colombia to attend the Eleventh Summit Conference of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Cuban president arrived at Rafael Nunez International Airport at 2155 in a special Cubana de Aviacion flight from Bariloche, Argentina, where he participated in the Fifth Ibero-American Summit.

At the airport, the revolutionary leader was received by Cartagena Mayor Guillermo Aniza, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the Nobel prize winner; and Colombian and Cuban officials and then was saluted by the Guard of Honor.

Fidel Castro wore a dark suit, a white shirt, and a tie. He walked on a carpet flanked by marine cadets standing firm and saluting him with their rifles.

At the conclusion of the brief welcome ceremony, the Cuban president went to the Santa Clara Hotel where he will stay, like other chiefs of state who will participate in this summit.

The recently inaugurated hotel is in the city's historic sector. The building was originally a Clarisas nuns' convent, built in 1595.

As is customary, the announced presence of Fidel Castro was the source of many commentaries and much expectation in the national and local media, which gave prominent coverage to his visits to Montevideo and Bariloche.

Posters and banners placed at various points on the road from the airport to the city's downtown read: "Welcome Cuba: Pride of the People of the World," and "Cuba, a Great Friend."

The leader of the Cuban revolution and the delegation that accompanies him will participate tomorrow in the inaugural session of the nonaligned countries' summit, where the 113 countries of the movement will be represented, including approximately 40 chiefs of state.

Cuba, a founder of the movement, has been present in all its summit meetings since the meeting in Belgrade in 1961 until the one in Jakarta in 1992. Cuba hosted the Sixth Summit in 1979, and right now occupies one of the vice presidencies for Latin America.

Vietnamese President, Delegation Arrives for Official Visit

PA1410040995 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1815 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 12 Oct (PL) — Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh arrived today in Havana on an official, friendly visit at the invitation of his Cuban counterpart, Fidel Castro, who welcomed him at the bottom of the steps.

The Vietnamese leader arrived at the Jose Marti International Airport from Brazil and was received by senior officials from the government and the Cuban Communist Party (PCC), as well as by representatives of the diplomatic corps in Cuba. Crowds waving Cuban and Vietnamese flags were gathered at the air terminal to welcome the visitor.

During his stay, the Vietnamese leader — who is accompanied by government officials and 20 businessmen — will hold official talks with top ranking local authorities and will sign an agreement on economic cooperation and international trade, according to Foreign Ministry sources.

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In a front page article published today, the daily GRANMA stressed that the visit is taking place "within the scope of existing traditional friendly ties between the governments, parties (communist), and the people" of the two countries.

The article, which included a photograph of the Asian leader, also emphasized that his presence, along with that of his official delegation, "represents an outstanding contribution toward the strengthening of those ties."

Anh arrived with his wife, Vo Thi Le, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Presidency Secretary General [title as received] Nguyen Viet Dung, Foreign Vice Minister Nguyen Dinh Bin, Interior Vice Minister Le Minh Huong, and Vice Minister of Commerce and Tourism Truong Dinh Truyen.

Since the victory of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Vietnam has been one of Cuba's closest allies from the Third World. During the U.S. war of agression against the Indochinese nation, Havana offered close cooperation and support.

There has been an extraordinary display of solidarity here for Vietnam's struggle for independence and national reunification, and it has been highlighted repeatedly by Cuban authorities as the example to follow in resisting the U.S. blockade and attacks.

Following the collapse of the Socialist Bloc and the Cuban economic crisis, the Vietnamese have sent substantial humanitarian assistance, especially food.

After visiting Brazil and Cuba, Anh will fly to Colombia, where he will participate in the Nonaligned Movement's summit. He will then visit UN headquarters to attend activities marking the organization's 50th anniversary.

Castro Decorates 'Vietnamese Counterpart'

PA1410033095 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0451 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 12 Oct (PL) — Cuban President Fidel Castro today decorated his Vietnamese counterpart, Le Duc Anh, with the Order of "Jose Marti," the highest distinction conferred by the Council of State, during a solemn ceremony at the Palace of the Revolution.

Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, read a resolution stressing the ties of friendship between Cuba and Vietnam and Le Duc Anh's personal merits, which make him worthy of receiving the order.

Alarcon said the Vietnamese president's visit coincides with the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Hanoi and Havana. He recalled, however, that the roots of those relations go back to the past century, when national hero Jose Marti praised the greatness of that Asian nation.

Le Duc Anh expressed his gratitude for the decoration, which he said belongs to the heroic Communist Party of Vietnam, its people, and all those who have struggled for liberty and socialism. This honor, he added, also belongs to President Ho Chi Minh.

Before ending his speech, Le Duc Anh expressed his firm conviction that Cuba will overcome its current difficulties and reaffirmed the indestructible friendship between both nations.

Le Duc Anh arrived in Cuba today for a five-day official visit invited by President Fidel Castro.

SRV Foreign Minister Tours 'Scientific Hubs'

PA1810013395 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Oct 95

[From the "NTV" newscast — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister Nguyen Manh Cam spoke about such issues as the existence of the nonaligned movement [NAM] countries and the Vietnamese-U.S. relations as he ended a tour of scientific hubs located in western Havana. Gladys Rubio has the story:

[Rubio] According to Cam, all the NAM country members believe that the movement must be preserved for several reasons:

[Cam, in Vietnamese with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] "Because the NAM does not only fight for peace, national independence, and development; it has the mission to fight for a new, equitable, and fair international order."

[Rubio] As for the Vietnamese-U.S. relations, he said that because these relations were recently established, they are going through an exploratory phase by the two sides prior to developing a commercial exchange.

[Cam] "The negotiations to sign a trade agreement will be held following this phase."

[Rubio] Everything in the world can change, the Vietnamese foreign minister pointed out, adding that the relations between Vietnam and Cuba are the only thing that cannot change.

[Cam] "Geographical distance fails to separate us; instead, it brings us closer together."

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[Rubio] Cam visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center and the Finlay Institute, where he received information on Cuba's latest breakthroughs in biotechnology, genetic engineering, and vaccine production.

SRV President Ends Visit, Signs Agreement

PA1810042495 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Angela Soto from the "National Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] bid farewell at the Jose Marti International Airport to Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, who was in Cuba for a five day official visit.

I call attention to the fact that he is the first Vietnamese president to visits the country.

During his stay in Cuba, Le Duc Anh was awarded the country's highest distinction, Jose Marti award, as a true expression of the close ties joining Cuba and the heroic people of Vietnam.

He also met with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, and signed an investment promotion and protection agreement. Likewise, the Vietnamese official also held several meetings with other party leaders and Cuban Government officials.

Le Duc Anh traveled today to the Nonaligned Nations Summit that begins today in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, and will later take part in the events organized to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

Also present to bid farewell to the Vietnamese president were members of the political bureau, the central committee, the government, as well as the diplomatic corp accredited in Cuba, and a delegation of Havana residents.

Mongolian Foreign Minister Arrives for Official Visit

PA1310051295 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 12 Oct (PL) — Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserepiliyn Gombosuren arrived today in Cuba for a four-day official visit, invited by his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina.

Gombosuren arrived from New York and was received at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Isabel Allende.

The Mongolian foreign minister, on 10 October, attended the 50th session of the UN Assembly General, headquartered in New York.

During his stay on the island, Gombosuren will meet with Robaina and Deputy Tourism Minister Miguel Brugueras, among others.

Following his visit to this country, the Mongolian foreign minister will travel to Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, to attend the 11th summit of the Nonaligned Movement.

Meets With Foreign Minister Robaina

PA1310235595 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Report by Marta Moreno from the "NTV Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has met with Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserenpilyn Gombosuren in the main office of Minrex [Ministry of Foreign Relations]. While welcoming him, Robaina expressed the Cuban Government's satisfaction with his visit, which will most certainly contribute to bringing the ties of friendship between the two countries even closer.

The Mongolian foreign minister gave exclusive statements to this newscast:

[Begin Gombosuren recording, in Mongolian with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] [Words indistinct] a blockade policy against Cuba. We do not support this policy. Mongolia is a small country, much like Cuba. You have our solidarity. [end recording]

Scheduled for the Mongolian foreign minister is an extensive program that includes meetings with several ministers and visits to centers of socioeconomic interest. He will remain in our country until 15 October.

Concludes Visit

PA1810000495 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Oct 95

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserenpilyn Gombosuren has concluded his official visit to Cuba. He was bid farewell at Havana's airport by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Isabel Allende.

In a statement to the Cuban media, the Mongolian foreign minister characterized his visit as successful and described his meetings with Cuban Government leaders — especially the one with Raul Castro, First Vice President of the Cuban Council of State — as very positive.

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The Mongolian minister said that relations between the two countries have reached a superior phase. He noted that these relations will expand further following the analysis the two governments made during his visit to the Caribbean country.

South African Foreign Minister Nzo Arrives on Official Visit

PA1310133095 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0304 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Havana, 11 Oct [PL] — South African Foreign Minister Alfredo Nzo wants to strengthen bilateral relations during his official visit to Cuba 11-13 October.

Vice Foreign Minister Benigno Perez and other Foreign Ministry officials greeted the South African foreign minister upon his arrival at Jose Marti International Airport. [passage omitted]

Meets Cuban Officials

PA1710025995 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 95

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, who is in Cuba on an official visit, today met with Cuban Deputy Basic Industries Minister Antonio de los Reyes to whom he expressed his country's interest in bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy and mining.

We have been acquainted with Cuba's potential, and there is the possibility of securing mutual benefits, the South African foreign minister said after being informed about the work of the Cuban Basic Industries Ministry and the notable presence of foreign investors in the nickel and oil industries in particular.

Nzo arrived in Havana Wednesday. Yesterday he met with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina who pointed out the importance of this visit at a moment when the U.S. Senate is debating a bill that calls for tightening the blockade on Cuba.

Voices Opposition to Blockade

MB1210124295 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1205 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA Oct 12 SAPA — The South African government was totally opposed to the isolation of Cuba in the socio-political and economic spheres, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said during his visit to Cuba on Thursday.

Speaking at a lunch hosted by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Gonzales [name as published], he said it was for this reason South Africa had voted at the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly for the lifting of the American blockade against Cuba.

In his speech — a copy of which was sent to SAPA in Johannesburg by the Department of Foreign Affairs — Nzo conveyed President Nelson Mandela's "warm greetings" to Cuban President Fidel Castro and reiterated Mandela's invitation to Castro to visit South Africa.

He said it would be the worst form of political immorality and gross ingratitude if Africa were to forget the "tremendous sacrifices" the Cuban people made supporting the freedom struggles of the peoples of southern Africa.

"Many countries of Africa have actually benefited from the dedicated services of your specialists in many fields, more particularly in support of medical services of many developing African countries. South Africa is part of that Africa which will never forget your internationalist solidarity. We take the opportunity of my first visit to your country to convey this deep gratitude to your people."

He said South Africa's establishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba had strengthened ties in various fields such as culture, socio-economic matters and trade.

South African exports to Cuba had increased from US10 million [dollars] in 1993 to US11.4 million in 1994, while Cuba's exports to South Africa amounted to US4 million dollars in 1994 and was expected to increase in the future.

"I am pleased to learn that your embassy in Pretoria is in the process of planning seminars in South Africa to inform the South African business sector about business opportunities in Cuba," Nzo said.

Ends Visit

PA1310150595 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0638 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 13 Oct (PL) — South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo is ending a three-day official visit to Cuba during which he reaffirmed his country's desire to strengthen ties with the island on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Today, before departing this afternoon, Nzo will meet with Juan Almeida, vice president of the Council of State, as well as with authorities of the Ministries of Basic Industries and Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation.

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During his visit to this Caribbean nation, Nzo has held official talks with his Cuban counterpart Roberto Robaina. He has also met with Jose Ramon Balaguer, chief of the International Relations Department of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Public Health Minister Carlos Dotres.

He also visited places of socioeconomic and historical interest and toured the Finlay Institute's vaccine prouction plant on the outskirts of the capital.

Yesterday, in an interview for PRENSA LATINA, Nzo described Cuba as a historical friend, noting that its people supported with sacrifices the struggle South Africans waged against Apartheid.

Cuba and South Africa formalized their diplomatic relations in May 1994, shortly after Nelson Mandela assumed his post as the first black president in that South African nation.

Foreign Minister Meets With Visiting Canadian Delegation

PA1210142195 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Oct 95

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gilbert Parent, speaker of the House of Commons in the Canadian Parliament, and his delegation have brought a donation of pharmaceuticals worth $3.5 million to Cuba. Parent and three other House of Commons leaders met Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina this afternoon. Robaina thanked them for the significant donation and stressed that Canada and Cuba will continue to work toward stronger economic relations. He added that Cuba now has a modern and flexible foreign investment tax law thanks, in part, to Canadian businessmen who dared when no one else would:

[Begin Robaina recording, in Spanish with passage-by-passage translation into English] You are close to us, not just geographically but because of what you have done. You are among those who were not satisfied with just having your say at the United Nations. You invested in Cuba and visited us during difficult times. [end recording]

Parent spoke with "NTV" after his meeting with Robaina:

[Begin Parent recording, in English with passage by passage translation into Spanish] I will be holding a number of talks during my visit, which our officials will then follow up. I am sure that these talks will prove quite fruitful for both Cuba and Canada. [end recording]

Parent will also meet Cuban Education Minister Luis Ignacio Gomez and Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Two more flights will arrive in several days with more donations, in addition to the 11 tonnes of pharmaceuticals that arrived today.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Angola

PA1310235695 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0311 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 12 Oct (PL) — The education ministers of Cuba and Angola, Luis Ignacio Gomez and Joao Manuel Bernardo, respectively, today signed a new cooperation protocol that will be in effect between the two countries until 1997.

During the eighth session of the Cuban-Angolan Mixed Intergovernmental Commission, the participants discussed education, university instruction, tourism, culture, radio and television, communications, sports, foreign trade, and scholarships.

The agreements involve Cuban technical assistance, training in the Caribbean nation, advisory assistance, exchange of information, the possibility of joint ventures in foreign trade, and the exchange of advanced generic drugs.

They also signed the 1996-1997 Executive Program for Cultural, Educational, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

Joao Manuel Bernardo said that "exchanges are always important because of Cuba's development level in the fields of education, sports, health, and biotechnology."

CDR National Coordinator Contino Visiting Vietnam, PRC

PA1410001395 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Oct 95

[From the "National Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Juan Contino, national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], began a visit to Vietnam today as part of an exchange between rank and file organizations of the two countries. The Cuban leader was welcomed by the president of the Homeland Front, (Li Wang Dau), with whom Contino talked for more than one hour on the work of people's organizations, which have the largest number of members in the two countries, and the specific situation in their respective countries.

Contino will go to Ho Chi Min City, formerly Saigon, tomorrow where he will stay until 15 October. He will then fly to the People's Republic of China.

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Official Denounces Effects of Blockade To Visiting Asturians

PA1810002695 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0012 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 13 Oct (PL) — Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, today denounced the effects of the U.S. blockade against Cuba, in a meeting with approximately 50 Asturians visiting Cuba.

Fernandez emphasized the Cuban people's ability to resist. Cuba has suffered the direct consequences of that punitive measure evident in not having access to medicines and food, among other things.

Today we are facing the pressures of the U.S. blockade, the disappearance of the socialist bloc, and internal difficulties, Fernandez said.

Regarding the conquests of the Cuban social project, Fernandez mentioned education, the more than 1 million university graduates, public health, sexual and racial equality, and self-determination and freedom.

The vice president of the Council of Ministers recalled the close and historical ties of friendship between Cuba and Spain. Particularly, the expression of solidarity given by a number of sectors of the European nation.

Reporter Pepe Iglesias, spokesman for the Asturian delegation, told PRENSA LATINA that the group of 52 persons, which will conclude their visit to Cuba on Tuesday, comes mainly from Cudillero and Valdes municipalities.

Iglesias said that each members of the delegation brought a donation, mainly medicines, school supplies, personal hygiene products and food.

In addition, Francisco Gonzalez Mendez, Mayor of Cudillero — a municipality of 10,000 inhabitants — condemned the U.S. blockade on Cuba, and showed his satisfaction for the freedom and sovereignty of the island.

Gonzalez characterized the local people as friendly and receptive and alluded to the security in the streets, unusual in other nations of the world.

Jesus Landeria Alvarez-Cascos, Mayor of the Asturian town of Luardas — a town with 18,000 residents who make their living from the cattle, fishing, and tourism sectors — revealed that the possibility of cooperating with Cuba in tourism and environmental health is being studied.

Landeira told PRENSA LATINA: "Cuba has impressed me very much, above all the fighting spirit of its people, and, although in my opinion many things should improve, I trust that the people will be victorious."

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Zedillo Discusses Economic Issues, Ties With U.S.

PA1710164595 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Delia Estevez and Manuel Moreno]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, D.C., 12 October — Ernesto Zedillo Ponce De Leon today said here that the control in public spending will not be eased and the economic adjustment plan will not be relaxed as certain domestic business sectors have been demanding, because if we did this, we would be incurring in inflationary financing.

"If the government spends more than what was cleanly collected in revenues, the resources to pay the difference must come from some place. Because the possibility of obtaining foreign resources is still limited, the only source Mexico has is its own private sector," Zedillo pointed out.

He added that "to this end, if we followed this recommendation, the private sector itself will be the sector that would have more limited spending and investment opportunities, because we refuse to incur inflationary financing, which ultimately constitutes a tax levied on our country's poorest people."

He pointed to the fiscal discipline policies that have been implemented so far and that he committed himself to continue to implement, as was the condition to obtain the U.S. aid.

Last week, the day before the Mexican president's state visit started, U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin warned against a likely reduction in the economic adjustment plan, which he described as a "serious mistake."

Minutes prior to boarding the presidential jet, Zedillo finally granted 20 minutes to the Mexican media and held a news conference at the John F. Kennedy Airport, a conference that, it was said, would substitute for the monthly meeting. During the day, he refused to answer questions that were made in between activities.

As he ends his tour of the United States today, President Zedillo was pleased with the achievements made in Washington and was anxious to return to Mexico.

He regarded the results of his stay in the U.S. capital as the confirmation of a policy of mutual respect among the two countries, and "as I explained before leaving Mexico, I did not expect a spectacular progress, because we have been working on this agenda and these problems since the beginning of the administration."

Zedillo underscored that the achievements have been "gradual, cumulative, and systematic." We have ratified the path toward constant talks and communications between the two parties, and we have discarded all surprises. We have agreed to avoid "unpleasant surprises by the actions either one of the two governments carries out and to clearly stress that this is the path of the future needed to advance in such delicate issues as immigration, drug trafficking, the environment, and, certainly, economic cooperation."

Regarding the relations with the U.S. Congress, where there is a major tension, he believes that the attitudes and expressions of the legislative leaders with whom he met in Washington "were particularly positive, which will help us during these political times the United States is experiencing."

He disclosed that he also met with representatives of the organizations that advocate Mexican-U.S. causes, which he considered particularly significant, because the "new rapprochement" of the Mexican foreign policies places a special emphasis to Americans of Mexican origin and to Mexicans living in the United States, which has given place to the proposal of a double nationality.

President Zedillo emphasized the two objectives of foreign policies: First, a struggle for sovereignty and the country's respect, and, second, the promotion of Mexican interests abroad.

He was pleased with the results he obtained from the meetings he held with U.S. businessmen and reported that certain investment projects that had been halted in the aftermath of the crisis are being reactivated and even extended.

"In short, I believe it has been a quite positive visit for our country," he said. He then started thanking the media directors who accompanied him and explained that the news conference would be brief, because "I miss my daughter a great deal."

The first questions centered around the money laundering issue and the U.S. cooperation to combat it. To this regard, the Mexican head of state affirmed that it has been agreed, in general terms, that the two countries cooperate with one another to deal with this serious problem.

He recalled that, almost three years ago, the two countries signed the first agreement and that there have been two specific cases in which, thanks to this cooperation, crimes of this nature were resolved. He failed to mention to what cases he was referring.

"What is happening in Mexico is that the money laundering crime is essentially tied to tax matters, and we have determined that the investigations into and the prosecution of this crime, if we limited ourselves

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to tax matters only, are not enough, especially in cases in which the crime is tied to drug trafficking," Zedillo pointed out, pointing to the cooperation between the Attorney General's Office and the federal fiscal prosecutor to determine a set of legal reform initiatives that would help us to typify, in a more broad fashion, and to establish the sentences concerning this crime.

Regarding cooperation, he said, the exchange of information is essential and recognized that there is more cooperation among countries to detect likely illegal activities. This is why the U.S. Government has pledged its experience in fighting this crime.

In addressing the capital flight problem, the Mexican chief of state maintained that the government is interested in obtaining investments in Mexico and assessed that the best path to get these investments is to continue to tenaciously and efficiently implement the stabilization plan, to firmly achieve the conditions allowing an economic recovery, and, therefore, to have fertile grounds for the investments that, in one way or another, are trying to leave the country.

Zedillo, Spanish Leaders Discuss Free Trade Agreement

PA1710131895 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 16 Oct 95 pp 1, 21

[Report by Ricardo Aleman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bariloche, 15 Oct — The matter called for it and this is why they broke schedules and protocols. A 90-minute meeting was planned, but Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, and Spain's King Juan Carlos I, talked for nearly three hours, privately.

As a result of this long conversation, the EU will be "empowered" to begin formal negotiations with Mexico in order to reach a free trade agreement, whose stage of trade details has been slated for 1996.

The "reservations" of the EU to incorporate Mexico into a trade agreement seemed to have been left behind. The "observations" that Mexico does not have a "true democracy" seems to have been overcome. In a brief interview with Mexican and Spanish reporters, President Ernesto Zedillo and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez detailed the content of which they later described as an "extremely positive" meeting.

The topic of education in Ibero-America seemed to have been momentarily relegated, despite that it was the theme of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit. This, despite the fact that the resolution to be issued by the chiefs of state and government will acknowledge that the Ibero-American nations "live a crisis characterized by a deterioration of the quality of education; and that the best training for a job is quality basic education."

The day before the formal inauguration of the summit — which gathers in this city of the Patagonia 18 of the 21 chiefs of state and government that make up Ibero-America — Zedillo and Gonzalez assessed bilateral relations, but particularly, the way to take advantage of the fact that Spain chairs the EU.

The reason behind this is that for the Mexican Government, the economic and commercial diversification "is a diversification with capital D," and this is why it takes advantage of all the forums to promote it.

After his long talk with Felipe Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos I, the Mexican president explained that the obstacles for the EU to begin negotiations for a trade agreement with Mexico have been overcome. "I am almost certain that in the coming weeks, we will have the authorization and we will be able to negotiate the details in 1996," Zedillo stated.

In the meantime, Gonzalez said that his country is responsible for chairing the EU, "and we will be empowered, in a very short time, to begin the negotiations for a trade agreement."

Answering a question, Gonzalez remarked that Mexico does not need any "bridge" to negotiate trade agreements with the old continent. "Mexico has enough power to be present in all of Europe's capitals, without the need for a bridge. It even has commercial relations with such countries as France and Germany, which have as much or more weight than any relations it may have with Spain." [passage omitted]

In private, Zedillo, Gonzalez, and King Juan Carlos I discussed topics of the bilateral agenda, but primarily, they spoke about the beginning of negotiations to reach a free trade agreement between Mexico and the EU.

To this effect, Zedillo remarked that Mexico is interested in a broad relation, with very ambitious objectives, "specifically in the commercial aspect" with Europe. "The big challenge for us is the trade issue," Zedillo noted.

Regarding eventual closer commercial ties, Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Angel Gurria explained that the first negotiations between Mexico and the EU will zero in on two aspects: A political agreement and a trade agreement. In the first case, the Mexican Government will insist on the initiatives for political opening undertaken by the government of Ernesto Zedillo, while in the second case, it will emphasize the commercial advantages of establishing ties between

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Mexico, one of the members of NAFTA, and Europe. [passage omitted]

Zedillo: Financial Insolvency Risk 'Overcome'

PA1810030295 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2115 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bariloche, Argentina, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) — Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo affirmed here today that the serious financial insolvency risk Mexico faced has been overcome. He said he is certain that in 1996, the Mexican economy will have a generalized recovery.

The Mexican chief of state said during an interview that his country's big challenge now is to have economic recovery "without endangering what was achieved in 1995."

Zedillo expressed his trust that next year the people will begin recovering lost jobs. He said Mexico will begin to capitalize on many structural changes that were made during the past decade and that because of the crisis have not yielded possible benefits.

The Mexican president made emphasis on the importance of perseverance. He said in this regard that the Ibero-American countries have gone through substantial political and economic changes in the past 10 or 15 years.

Zedillo said after a private meeting with Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol in the Llao Llao Hotel that "if we were to examine the changes we would conclude that the results have been very positive."

At the conclusion of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit, Zedillo noted: "Now we know that all these economic and political modernization processes have faced, still face, and will continue facing severe tests."

The Mexican president said that countries that in 1995 faced very severe test, "notably the case of Mexico," have overcome their problems and are marching toward the consolidation of democracy.

Zedillo said: "The balance shows that these tests have had very positive results for our countries and that this is not the moment for hesitation."

The president said that adversaries of modernization policies are questioning, at this trying moment, those policies and are saying that what has been done is not worth the effort. "This is a mistaken position, especially when the critics do not have any alternative proposal," Zedillo said.

The Mexican chief of state, who was preparing to return to Mexico City, explained: "They have not come up with a clear proposal capable of producing results better than those of the political and economic modernization policies that have been implemented in our countries."

Zedillo insisted that perseverance is fundamental and considered that the Ibero-American region is on the right road and with solid basis to lead the people toward better development in the 21st century.

Zedillo said: "What is important is to persevere and to remain adhered to the principles of democracy and liberty that our modernization is securing."

President Zedillo said work is necessary to produce lawful states because this is what will permit putting an end to corruption because the moment there is no impunity and laws are effectively implemented, corruption will end.

Bank Offers To Buy Treasury Certificates, Development Bonds

PA1710204195 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1902 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) — The Bank of Mexico (Central) announced today it will offer to buy from credit institutions Treasury Certificates (Cetes) and Federal Government Development Bonds (Bondes) for approximately $615 million.

In a brief communique, the financial institution stated the operation would be carried out through a bidding process. The bases for this process will be included in an announcement that will be sent to several banking institutions this Tuesday afternoon.

The central bank stated the objective of purchasing those bonds is to reduce the frequency and amounts of the injection operations and the subtraction of funds from the money market carried out by the Bank of Mexico.

It clarified that the purchase of Cetes and Bondes is not meant to inject liquidity and stated that its monetary effect will be neutralized by other operations of the central bank.

Former Mexico City Mayor Quits PRI, Establishes Position

PA1710154995 Mexico City Radio Red Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Report by Gloria Hernandez; from the "The Night Monitor" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manuel Camacho Solis this Friday established his political position. First, he announced his resignation from the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] and then Camacho, former commissioner for peace, read a communique saying that in light

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of the lack of determination for a real political change to take the country to an advanced democracy, he decided to join the forces fighting for the democracy the country requires.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] Since I disagree with this, and since I understand after these months that there is no will to change the system or to reform the PRI truly, I have decided to continue to promote these positions from outside the PRI. I am now out of the PRI. [end recording]

Manuel Camacho Solis who talked to reporters for 15 minutes explained that he has no rush. He said he will work gradually with a view to the long term. This Friday, he stressed, a new period begins and there is a lot of work to be done. This is what he said:

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] What do I plan to do now? In the coming months, I will seek to establish ties with the political forces that are fighting for democracy, justice, and development in Mexico. I will try to meet with the leaders of opposition political parties and leaders from all currents of society. I will continue to talk to all those citizens concerned about the future of Mexico. With them and with many others, I will try to turn these ideas into proposals and political initiatives, to join forces for the construction of the advanced democracy Mexico needs today. [end recording]

Before making the aforementioned statements, Manuel Camacho Solis spoke precisely in favor of a democracy that allows authorities to achieve political stability and a stronger confidence in the future of the economy. He noted he is opposed to a cosmetic electoral reform, aimed at artificially prolonging the life of the system.

[Begin Camacho Solis recording] In this process and from this new position, I will also try to speak to PRI leaders and, of course, I will continue to talk to authentic PRI members. [end recording]

He also said he supports the creation of a new political and social coalition, which bridges the communication gap between the people and government decisions. He said he will do this to help society regain confidence in politics, to eliminate authoritarian practices, and, in fact, to have society develop itself amid freedom, without intimidation and fears generated from the same government.

In fact, when he began to read this message, Manuel Camacho Solis explained that he will present to the attorney general the document on the Colosio case this weekend. He added this document will be kept confidential. This is my report on these brief remarks made today by Manuel Camacho Solis.

Council Announces Preliminary Results of Chiapas Election

PA1710145795 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Oct 95

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chiapas held nonviolent elections yesterday. Hector de la Hoz Santana, secretary general of the Chiapas Electoral Council, today announced preliminary results, as of 2100, of yesterday's elections in Chiapas. The elections were to renew officials in 108 municipalities and 40 state deputies:

[Begin de la Hoz recording] At this time, the preliminary counts indicate the following advanced results. As we had said this morning, the National Action Party already has one municipality in its favor. Up to this last preliminary count, the Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction—we had not mentioned this morning—has also won one municipality. The Party of the Democratic Revolution has 11 mayoralties in its favor, and the Institutional Revolutionary Party has 51 municipal councils in its favor. [end recording]

Chiapas Governor Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro has rejected that reports have indicated there was going to be violence and bloodshed during the elections:

[Begin Ruiz Ferro recording] After yesterday's elections, we can say such reports were unfounded; this was also our position, and we always spoke in favor of unity and of summoning people to vote. We, state officials, had been saying that the conditions were adequate to hold a peaceful, calm, nonviolent process, such as the one held yesterday. We have also said the elections would be valid and open. [end recording]

Francisco Zepeda Bermudez, secretary of the board of directors of the special Chiapas Congress session, has announced the date for the special elections in the two municipalities that had been postponed:

[Begin Zepeda Bermudez recording] The special elections in Ocosingo and Nicolas Ruiz Municipalities in Chiapas will be held on 5 November 1995. [end recording]

In San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo this morning talked to a group of journalists about the electoral process in Chiapas. He said:

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[Begin Zedillo recording] It provides a very positive impression. I would like to express my satisfaction with the results of the municipal and state congressional elections yesterday. According to observers and electoral authorities, the elections went well, were peaceful and orderly. [end recording]

Despite the bad weather in Chiapas, due to the hurricane that is hitting the Mexican southwest, people went to vote peacefully and managed to surmount the abstention, which was expected to surpass the 50 percent mark.

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Costa Rica

Figueres Announces Asylum for Ecuadoran Vice President

PA1710175995 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1649 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cartagena de Indias, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) — President Jose Maria Figueres today announced Costa Rica will give political asylum to former Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik, who was declared a fugitive after he resigned his position due to a corruption scandal.

Interviewed by the Colombian radio network Caracol, the Costa Rican president, who is participating in the Fifth Ibero-American Summit in the southern Argentine city of San Carlos de Bariloche, said the granting of asylum to Dahik "is practically a done deal." He said his government is waiting for Dahik, who fled Ecuador after an arrest warrant was issued against him last week, to complete the documents required by the Central American nation to process the political asylum.

Figueres will participate as an observer in the 11th Nonaligned Movement (NAM) summit after the meeting of Ibero-American chiefs of state and government, which ends in Bariloche this Tuesday. The Central American head of state recalled that his country has a long tradition in favor of political asylum, always under the protection of international law.

The former Ecuadoran vice president resigned from his post on 11 October after the Supreme Court issued an arrest warrant against him on charges of misappropriation. Dahik fled in a private plane to San Jose, making a brief stopover in the Colombian city of Cali. Once he arrived in San Jose, Dahik checked into a luxurious hotel and started making efforts at the local Foreign Ministry to process his asylum.

"We will give a final response to his request as soon as he completes his documents," Figueres said in his statements to the radio network. He reiterated that his government has not received any extradition request for Dahik from the Ecuadoran Government and said Dahik enjoys all the guarantees and freedom granted by the Constitution to foreigners in Costa Rica.

In San Jose, the former Ecuadoran vice president has rejected the charges made by the Ecuadoran Court and has said Congress had cleared him of those same charges, adding that the arrest warrant was part of a political setup against him.

Two weeks before he resigned, Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen had requested his resignation but clarified that he did not intend to condemn Dahik but, rather, to allow the judicial organizations to freely investigate him. Dahik refused to resign at that time. He waited for the response of the Ecuadoran Congress, and it acquitted him. After he was exonerated in the parliamentary trial, Dahik was surprised, however, by the arrest warrant issued by the court. This action forced him to flee the country.

Embassy in Ecuador Demands No Asylum

PA1710190895 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1813 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San Jose, 17 Oct (NOTIMEX) — Costa Rican Deputy Foreign Minister Rodrigo Carreras said here today the occupants [not further identified] of the Costa Rican Embassy in Ecuador are demanding that this Central American country not give political asylum to former Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik.

Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres said in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, this Tuesday that the granting of political asylum to Dahik is practically a done deal" [no opening quotation mark as received] and only requires that the former vice president complete the necessary documents to this end.

El Salvador

President Views Economic Compensation Law, Deportations

PA1710150295 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Report by Carlos Ramos; from the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prior to this departure to attend the Fifth Ibero-American Summit in Bariloche, Argentina, President Armando Calderon Sol stressed that the recently enacted Economic Compensation Law is essential if the state seeks to enter the course of modernization.

The president pointed out that with this law the public administration system will become much more effective.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] To this end we also need to cut back several positions within the public administration system. In this respect a decree, or bill, has been approved where all the political forces participated and had to opportunity to voice their opinions. It has been decided that the state will be reduced and compensation will be paid out to those public employees who are laid off. This compensation will enable them to incorporate into some type of productive work. I believe that the country demands

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these transformations and that it also demands more efficiency from the public administration system. As you are all well aware, most countries throughout the world are undergoing some type of transformations. The world has become more competitive. Therefore, El Salvador is also forced to implement changes. If we do not, the country will stagnate and we will confront a situation of disadvantage when compared to those other nations of the world whose bureaucracy is becoming more and more efficient. This is enabling them to provide better services to a private sector that with each passing day becomes more demanding in the services it requires from the public system. [end recording]

According to the president, the threats being made by labor unions to organize protest marches are unjustified since what the new law seeks is not only to improve the services provided by the state but also to improve the welfare of all citizens.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] I believe that we are all entitled to exercise those rights which the law grants us. If anyone should feel that this new law is unconstitutional or perceives that their individual rights are being obstructed, then they are entitled to file a motion before the Supreme Court of Justice. In this respect, there is a separation of powers and there are all sorts of guarantees offered by the Salvadoran state which is democratic and legal.

Therefore, all we can say, not only to those unions that have expressed opposition but also to all public employees who believe their rights have been limited, is that there are legal means available to which they can turn. We do not believe, as they have said, that the new law is unconstitutional and that it does not conform to the law. As you are all aware, the new law was approved by the majority of the Legislative Assembly members, and not based on the decision of a single political party but several. In this respect, we can assure you that the law will be applied accordingly, and we expect that we will be able to count on the understanding of all sectors since what we seek is a much improved El Salvador. [end recording]

In commenting on another issue, President Calderon Sol denied reports related to a massive deportation of Salvadorans living in the United States, and stressed that he trusts the promises made by President Bill Clinton.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] I believe that no one can doubt President Clinton's word. As far as I am concerned I can tell you that I do not doubt his words since I believe he is a very honest man. He is a man who has given us all sorts of assurances. Of course there are laws in the United States that must be observed. We are providing all sorts of assistance to our countrymen so that they can have access to the benefits offered by those programs that were rescheduled. We hope that our countrymen will not leave everything for the last minute but that they will take advantage of what we were able to accomplish. [end recording]

President Armando Calderon Sol departed this weekend to Argentina to attend the Fifth Ibero-American Summit where the main issue on the agenda will be the topic of education. While at the summit the president will take advantage of the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with the other heads of state to discuss topics related to the economy.

Nicaragua

Government Unveils 1996 Draft Budget

PA1710191395 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Oct 95 p 8

[Report by Edgard Barbarena S.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the government presented its 1996 Draft Budget proposal to the National Assembly and estimated 4.685 billion cordobas in expenditures — nearly $500 million, 62.5 percent of which corresponds to current expenditures and 37.5 percent to capital expenditures.

According to a letter sent by President Violeta Chamorro to National Assembly President Humberto Guzman, 13 percent of the proposed budget has been earmarked to meet interest payments on the country's external and internal debt.

According to the stamp of the Parliament Secretariat that bears the signature of Maria Elena Martinez and the time of 2:30 in the afternoon, the Ministry of Finance (Mifin) delivered the proposal that includes major aspects of the amount programmed for investments and which represents 37.5 percent of total budget, and approximately 11 percent of GDP.

The president's letter points out that "this is the result of a process of streamlining current operation expenditures, and my government's disposition to provide greater transparency in all information related to government financial management."

Reorganizing Public Finances

The president added that the results obtained in combining revenues and expenditures will ensure that fiscal discipline is preserved in the search to reorganize public finances.

The austerity policy included in the current expenditures, combined with efforts to ensure greater revenue

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collection, concurrent with a process of fiscal exemptions, removal of distortions, and rationalization of exemptions will allow us to generate a greater margin of savings with which to finance matching funds for those investments backed by foreign assistance.

The president guarantees that these decisions have the decided support of the international financial community as attested by the accord signed with multilateral organizations supporting the economic program and agreements reached with the Paris Club related to the management of the country's foreign debt.

Distribution of Expenditures: 200 Million Cordobas for the Elections

The 4,685,163,396 cordobas proposed by the executive branch appears distributed in a table where the National Assembly is assigned 55,260,082 cordobas and the Supreme Electoral Council receives 227,449,053 cordobas. The government has estimated expenditures amounting to 206,259,000 cordobas for the 1996 elections. The Supreme Court of Justice has been earmarked 96,463,821, while the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic has been assigned 15,500,000 cordobas.

The Presidency of the Republic appears with two budgets, one totalling 38,705,152 million, and another amounting to 33,352,852 cordobas accounted for basic expenditures. The Vice Presidency of the Republic has been assigned 835,300 cordobas, while the Office of Information and Press of the Presidency has been assigned a budget of 4,517,000 cordobas.

Other distributions as follows: MAS [Social Action Ministry] assigned 137,617,028 cordobas, and other lesser amounts for basic expenditures. The War Victims Assistance Institute has been assigned 710,900 cordobas; the Nicaraguan Women's Institute is slated to receive 1,323,240 cordobas; 699,851,686 cordobas has been earmarked for the Health Ministry; 489,471,634 for the Education Ministry; 11,942,391 cordobas for the MITRAB [Ministry of Labor]; 61,203,971 to the MIFIN [Ministry of Finance]; 42,776,037 assigned to the Ministry of Economy; and 482,281,033 for the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

Ineter [Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies] is to get 11,076,033 cordobas; the Agricultural and Livestock Ministry, 145,684,500 cordobas; the Foreign Ministry, 101,488,748 cordobas; the Foreign Cooperation Ministry, 8,976,394 cordobas; the Defense Ministry, 239,858,483 cordobas; the Government Ministry, 252,850,506 cordobas. The latter ministry will also be assigned other allocations of over 20 million cordobas for its own expenditures and 13 million cordobas for transferences for peace investments.

The Inifom [Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development] will get 89,427,688 cordobas; the INRA [National Institute for Agrarian Reform], 29,142,411 cordobas; the Nicaraguan Institute of Culture, 20,588,828 cordobas and additional allocations of 20 million cordobas for its own expenditures and of 500,000 cordobas for the Culture House; Marena [Environment and Natural Resources Ministry], 79,333,300 cordobas. The budget includes a non-assignable allocation to organizations of 1,337,232,332 cordobas. The Red Cross will receive 432,500 cordobas and the Northern and Southern Atlantic autonomous governments, 14,023,200 cordobas.

The Youth and Sports Institute will get 13.969 million cordobas and the Ministry of Tourism, 9,221,600 cordobas. The budget will allocate 5.808 million cordobas for commissions for banking transactions, 7,584,200 cordobas for quotas to international organism (UNDP), 4,048,243 cordobas for the coordination of reforms of the public sector, and 2,983,800 cordobas for the coordination of the integrated system financial and audit management.

Radio Nicaragua will receive 1,845,581 cordobas; the National Universities Council, 198.300 million cordobas; university student (bus) passes [fichas], 7.200 million cordobas. The INEC [National Institute of Statistics and Census] will receive 9.474 million cordobas for operational expenditures; the Inatec [National Institute of Technology], 30,039,213 cordobas, and for the 2 percent 2.610 million cordobas; and INTA [Agrarian Transformation Institute], 52,973,300 cordobas.

The Ruben Dario Theater will receive 4.779 million cordobas; the INAP [Nicaraguan Public Administration Institute], 4,693,540 cordobas; the INAA [Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute], 42.596 million cordobas; the INSS [Nicaraguan Social Security and Welfare Institute], 3.7 million cordobas; the FONIC [expansion unknown], 11.830 million cordobas; the National Program to Support Microenterprises (Pamic), 1,849,820 cordobas; FISE [Emergency Fund For Social Investments], 27.267 million cordobas; the National Rural Development Program [Programa Nacional de Desarrollo Rural — PNDR], 141.377 million cordobas; the Overall Multisector Credit Program, 85 million cordobas; public debt service (interests), 607,937,335 cordobas; and 9,022,259 cordobas for unforeseen expenditures.

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Ministry To Correct Abuses to Property Law, Agrarian Reform

PA1710154895 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 13 Oct 95 p 14

[Report by Edgard Barberena S.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Emilio Pereira yesterday confirmed that there are 2,500 cases of abuse regarding properties larger than 100 square meters of construction and 2,000 other agrarian reform cases representing approximately 400,000 productive blocks.

As a guest at Channel 2's "Good Morning" show, Pereira said that, as included in a proposal the executive branch made in its talks with the Parliament, the system to correct abuses has been strengthened to ensure the problem will be resolved in an executive and expeditious fashion.

He reported cases of people who used front men, their drivers, bodyguards, and people who worked for them to register the properties under their names and then transfer them to their bosses. There have been many cases in which cooperatives allegedly owned by 30 people purchased a 200-block farm, and now there is no one left from those cooperatives and the owner is a single person living in Managua. "We cannot say this was done in good faith."

He pointed out that these corrections must be strengthened with a system of compensation, as is the case with the Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] privatization process, because the property package costs $650,000. This is why we have to sell Telcor to be able to pay the people who are enabling the social reform.

Social Reform

The minister affirmed that, regarding the social reform, 80 percent of the property problem "must be maintained and that it is impossible to return properties in a country where there is a deficit of more than half a million homes. He explained that making the country return these properties would be like immersing Nicaragua into chaos.

"Most properties cannot be returned; therefore, we must indemnify the confiscated owners well, and this is why we are privatizing 50 percent of Telcor, in which we expect to obtain approximately $200 million," the government official underscored.

Solutions to the Problem

The beneficiaries who need stability, he said, are 225,000 families representing 1.5 million Nicaraguans, and we need to separate them from political processes and not let them be manipulated during the elections.

Within those 225,000 beneficiaries, there is a group that cannot be defined as small; it regards 11,000 houses of Law 66. Of this amount, 7,500 houses have less than 100 square meters and 3,500 houses have more than 100 square meters.

Of the houses that have more than 100 square meters, 883 have more than 200 square meters. Of these 11,000 houses, we found out that 2,500 present potential abuse problems, and most of them concern big houses.

There are 115,000 10-by-30-vara [measurement equivalent to approximately one yard] urban plots, and many people who live in those plots have been there since the times of Somoza. The only thing that was done was to give them property titles. "We are not drafting plots in Las Colinas or Los Pueblos, but at intervening suburbs.

In addition, there are 110,000 families that availed themselves of the agrarian reform and have less than 28 blocks per household.

A Famous Day in Nicaragua

Of the approximately 11,000 agrarian reform property titles issued during the transition period, there is a famous day in Nicaragua: 12 February 1990, when 6,500 property titles were issued, many of which have problems, because these titles are faxes and photocopies. "We have identified all of them with names and surnames and we compared them to data of the National Assembly."

Many cooperatives are involved and some individuals own 500, 800, and up to 1,000 blocks. Of the 11,000 titles about 2,100 must be definitely reviewed, because they cannot be subjected to social reform.

Social Reform

Pereira confirmed that the government and the National Assembly reached an agreement with political forces on the definition of social reform, and he added that peasants will be guaranteed the land they already own.

As he insisted on the abuse correction system, the finance minister said that Law 133 made house payments optional and left terms indefinite. The bill that is under consultation establishes a two-year payment term for houses over 200 meters and a mortgage by law.

Pereira pointed out that this mechanism is better than both Law 133 and Law 180 (law on bonds) that were approved last year by a 72 to zero vote. That law already approved installment payments for houses over 200 meters.

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Misinformed Persons

The official confirmed that during a meeting between bloc leaders and various groups on 11 October it was apparent that some of them are misinformed about the property issue. The persons who showed up at the National Assembly had information contained in the fifth of ninth drafts that the special property commission had worked on.

"Now is the time to stop looking back," Pereira said. He added that we must be aware of abuses "we must strengthen the correction and compensation system, give tranquillity to small owners, and thus, stability will establish solid bases." "We cannot leave this task to the next government, the one that 2.5 million voters will elect by the end of next year."

Cuadra Does Not Rule Out Running for President

PA1810005195 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Oct 95

[From the "Extravision" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Joaquin Cuadra Chamorro, who is among the presidential hopefuls for the 1996 elections on the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] ticket, did not rule out the possibility of running for president as the "Extravision" newscast interviewed him early on the morning of 12 October.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Is it truth, Don Joaquin, that the Military Council, specifically Major General Javier Carrion, visited you on behalf of the Army to discuss the comments that you could be an FSLN presidential candidate?

[Cuadra] No way, that did not happen.

[Reporter] However, have you talked about this issue with your son, Gen. Cuadra?

[Cuadra] We have talked many times about many issues, especially about politics. Because my candidacy has not been resolved yet, it is a matter that is still being studied, just like the FSLN is studying the candidacies of other people. We have not had to engage in a confrontation or make a proposal of contrasting interests.

[Reporter] Would you like to be a candidate?

[Cuadra] Tell me, would you not like it?

[Reporter] Of course. [end recording]

Panama

Government Appoints Commission for Talks on Bases

PA1710133195 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Oct 95

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Panamanian Government has appointed the members of the commission that will hold exploratory talks on the likely permanence of the U.S. military bases beyond the year 2000. President Ernesto Perez Balladares has made the official announcement, stressing that these talks do not imply a renegotiation of the Panama Canal Treaties. Orlando Mendieta has the story:

[Mendieta] Jorge Ritter and Adolfo Ahumada, Foreign Ministry advisers; PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] Director Gabriel Castro; Eloy Alfaro, alternate Supreme Court of Justice magistrate; Panamanian Ambassador to Washington Ricardo Alberto Arias; Deputy Foreign Minister Omar Jaen; ARI [Interoceanic Region Authority] Subadministrator Augusto Zambrano; and Gabriel Arias Galindo make up the commission.

President Perez Balladares has said that the treaties will not be renegotiated and that they will be complied with until the year 2000, adding that the commission was appointed as a result of a request the United States has made to examine its military permanence in Panama beyond the year 2000:

[Perez Balladares] "My interest lies in handling this issue above partisan interests; thus, we have tried to form a commission that does not belong to a particular party. It is formed by men of various political backgrounds. We believe the country's interests must never be mistaken for petty partisan politics, let alone for personal interests."

[Mendieta] The president has insisted that Panamanians will attend these talks and that other countries or international organizations will not intervene:

[Perez Balladares] "We will attend the talks with an open mind, because the other side was the one that has requested to start exploratory talks; therefore, we will listen to their proposals in these first talks and will also make them public."

[Mendieta] Meanwhile, the PTJ director and Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo gave their opinions on the forming of this commission:

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[Castro] "My duty as a Panamanian is to hold these exploratory talks, and the president is honoring me with confidence he places in me, as he has done before."

[Lewis] "I believe Panama is well represented by the people the president has selected."

[Mendieta] The talks between Panama and the United States will be held here on 30 November and 1 December. Deputy Foreign Minister Jaen will coordinate the talks for the Panamanian side.

ARI Official Views Maintenance of U.S. Military Bases

PA1710132095 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 16 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Carlos Anel Cordero]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are no assurances so far that it would be convenient to maintain U.S. military bases in Panamanian territory, and no proposal has been made by the government or the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) in this regard, ARI Administrator Nicolas Ardito Barletta affirmed yesterday.

Ardito Barletta said he is convinced Panamanians have the capability to make good use of the reverted areas so they can contribute to the national development while the corresponding organizations make a decision on this case.

Nevertheless, he said the reverted areas will contribute to the development of the country's economy, provided these areas are handled among all Panamanians and in an apolitical manner.

Ardito Barletta stressed as something very important that the United States has invited Panama to hold "exploratory talks" to assess the issue and to reach a common accord.

He insisted there are no assurances either in the United States or in Panama that this would be the best alternative at the present time, and that is why the conversations will be held in the coming days.

The ARI administrator said a mutually convenient agenda should be prepared within the framework of the "exploratory talks" so as to include different issues, such as the shared use of a military site for a five to 10 year limited period.

Based on the this criteria, Panamanians may assess any proposal so that the pros and cons of a decision of this magnitude can be seen, the ARI administrator said.

He said the development of the reverted areas may increase exports, in addition to creating jobs.

Plan To Sell 50 Percent of Housing

PA1710192995 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Ibeth Vega]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) has planned to sell in 1996 50 percent of the housing units at Curundu Heights, Fort Espinar, and Margarita, a source from this authority has reported.

The source has said the ARI budget, which totals $30.794 million, includes an allotment to organize and coordinate the sale of these homes next year.

The budget will allow for the preparation of every aspect concerning the reversion of Fort Amador and Curundu next year, as well as the protection, maintenance, and administration of Forts Espinar and Davis, until the sale of homes is completed and the industrial processing zones are established in these areas.

The ARI is the decentralized authority responsible for receiving, maintaining, and administering reverted properties, assessing the alternate use of the same, and seeking its best utilization to benefit the country.

Authorities have not fully disclosed the budget given to the ARI, but they have said they will fulfill those duties, as well as some others.

For the next fiscal year, authorities have also planned to continue administering and maintaining approximately 2,700 housing units leased by the ARI, both in the Pacific and Atlantic sectors.

Another of the ARI goals with its $30 million budget is to direct and evaluate the consulting services contracted for the preparation of the general plan for the land use and the regional and master plan for the tourism development of Amador.

Beginning next year, the authority, with the support of the government, will begin an intense promotion of the reverted areas and properties, internationally, for its tourism, industrial, and commercial use.

Arnulfists 'Acted Correctly' by Not Discussing Bases

PA1710150195 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Report by Hugo Enrique Famania; from the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arnulfist Party is convinced it acted correctly when it declined the offer to discuss the possibility of renegotiating the U.S. bases in

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Panama, but the governing party believes the opposition missed a historic opportunity.

The Arnulfist Party's refusal to participate in informal talks to examine the suitability or not of negotiating a U.S. military presence in Panama past the year 2000 was the product of an unanimous decision of the party's National Directorate.

Legislator Leopoldo Benedetti says his party acted in a responsible fashion.

[Begin Benedetti recording] If the president wants to negotiate with the North Americans, let him negotiate. Afterwards he can inform the people about the negotiations and then we will know what to respond. [end recording]

The Arnulfists' answer to a personal invitation from President Ernesto Perez Balladares is the fruit of party distrust.

[Begin Benedetti recording] We believe that neither the president nor those who accompanied the president have told the whole truth. There is something behind all this. [end recording]

Only the Foreign Ministry has commented on the Arnulfist decision. The Press Director of the Foreign Ministry, Erich Rodriguez Auberbach, has regretted the answer given by the Arnulfist Party.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We believe the Arnulfist Party, a party we respect, has failed to take advantage, ignored, and lost a golden opportunity to discuss an issue that is very important for all the Panamanians: Arnulfists, Christian Democrats, the members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, and those of any other group. [end recording]

Rodriguez said that there is a place and a moment for all discussions and that on this occasion, the Arnulfist answer shows that political interests were placed above national interests.

Poll: 86 Percent Support U.S. Bases Beyond 2000

PA1710195995 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[FBIS Translated Text] Eighty-six percent of Panamanians believe the United States should maintain military bases in Panama after the year 2000, according to the most recent poll conducted by the firm Cid/Gallup for "EL PANAMA AMERICA."

The poll was taken between 19-27 September; that is, after the agreement between Presidents Bill Clinton and Ernesto Perez Balladares to begin "exploratory talks" with a view to defining or not the stay of Southern Command bases.

Sixty-one percent of the 1,202 citizens polled said the North Americans should maintain the same number of troops, while 25 percent support the presence of soldiers but in a lesser scale.

The poll revealed that 11 percent of Panamanians believe the bases should be dismantled, as established by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

According to the survey, Panamanians believe the Southern Command should remain here to "protect the Canal." In this regard, 51 percent of those surveyed supported this argument, while 36 percent stated that the bases represent an opportunity for employment, and 8 percent said the bases would favor Panama's political stability.

Most of those polled also supported the idea of U.S. troops stationed in Panama carrying out duties to protect the Canal, fighting drug trafficking in the region, and providing disaster relief.

The Cid/Gallup poll differs considerably from another poll conducted last week at the School of Law of the University of Panama, where 67 percent of 356 students surveyed rejected the permanence of U.S. bases.

The work of Cid/Gallup included interviews in the metropolitan region and the provinces of the interior.

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Argentina

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Court Ruling on Border Dispute

PY1610201395 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1106 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Oct (NA) — The Foreign Ministry has reported that the Arbitration Tribunal responsible for reviewing the decision on the Laguna del Desierto border dispute confirmed its position favoring Argentina and against Chile.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday released an eight-point communique expressing satisfaction for the ruling that was approved by four votes in favor and one vote against.

The current ruling refers to the Chilean 31 January 1995 petition to revise and interpret the decision issued on 21 October 1994 that also favored Argentina.

In item two of the communique the Foreign Ministry stressed that "the petition of interpretation was rejected unanimously while the petition of revision was rejected by four votes to one. Chilean Judge Santiago Benadava was the only vote that favored revision."

"On 21 October 1994 the tribunal fully supported Argentina's argument in the controversy over Laguna del Desierto. Today, the tribunal issued a decision and a resolution favoring the same arguments and petitions submitted by Argentina against Chile on 31 January of this year," the Foreign Ministry says in Point 6.

The Foreign Ministry also reported that "the Tribunal also decided that the placing of the three border markers in the locations already marked be carried out by the expert court geographer with the support of the Mixed Borders Commission or the National Commission and with any one of the parties next summer and before 31 January 1996."

In the last point of the communique, the Foreign Ministry stressed that "Argentina wants to pay homage to the Arbitration Tribunal, which has carried on its shoulders such great responsibility."

"The decision on Laguna del Desierto is the first where an arbitration tribunal appointed to decide on legal rights and integrated exclusively by Latin American jurists has put an end to a border dispute between two countries in the region, thus unmistakenly contributing to strengthening international law and the principle of peaceful solution of international controversies," the communique concluded.

Spanish King Arrives in Buenos Aires

PY1810030895 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0009 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Oct (TELAM) — Spanish King Juan Carlos I de Borbon arrived in Buenos Aires today from San Carlos de Bariloche after having participated in the Fifth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

The Spanish monarch arrived at the Alvear Palace Hotel, where he will stay until on 19 October, at 2200 GMT.

Sources from the Spanish Crown Ceremonial Secretariat reported that King Juan Carlos will participate in a welcoming reception in his honor this evening.

There was tight security both at the Alvear Palace Hotel and in the surrounding areas.

The king arrived at the hotel escorted by a convoy of vehicles guarded by Federal Police personnel.

The monarch was received by officials from the Spanish Embassy in Argentina and Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Upon arriving at the hotel, King Juan Carlos was met with the cheers of a large crowd of members of the Spanish community, which waving Spanish flags flocked together at the main entrance of the hotel on Alvear Avenue to welcome their king.

Brazil

Cardoso Returns From Bariloche; To Meet 'Arafat

PY1710231995 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1923 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brasilia, 17 Oct (AE) — President Fernando Henrique Cardoso returned to the Brasilia air base at 1605 today after attending the Ibero-American summit held in Bariloche, Argentina. The president was initially scheduled to arrive at 1630. Thus, the tenure of Luis Eduardo Magalhaes — president of the Chamber of Deputies (Liberal Front Party-Bahia) — as acting president of the Republic ended 25 minutes earlier. Magalhaes assumed duties as acting president when Vice President Marco Maciel left this morning for Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. From the air base, President Cardoso went to Alvorada Palace to change clothes. At 1820 today, he will meet with PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat at Planalto Palace.

PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Brasilia

PY1710114295 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has arrived in Brasilia. He will hold two meetings with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

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Palestinian Government Head Yasir 'Arafat, the president of the Executive Committee of the PLO, arrived early this morning at the Brasilia air base.

This is 'Arafat's first visit to South America. He will stay in Brazil a little over 21 hours. His agenda includes visits to the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies at 1000 and a meeting with Federal District Governor Cristovam Buarque at 1100, followed by a lunch with leaders of the Palestinian community in Brasilia. At 1500, 'Arafat will visit the Supreme Federal Court, where he will meet with Chief Justice Sepulveda Pertence. At 1820, he will have a private meeting with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso. The visitor will again meet with the Brazilian president at 1930, when President Cardoso will host a dinner to honor the PLO leader, who at 2200 will depart for Colombia.

Meets Local Lawmakers

PY1710180495 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brazilian Lamia Maruf, who is serving a life imprisonment sentence in Israel will be released. The announcement was made today in Brasilia by PLO President Yasir 'Arafat.

The Palestinian leader arrived in Brasilia early this morning, on his first visit to a South American country.

Traffic jams, helicopters, and dozens of policemen marked the strong security mechanism that accompanied 'Arafat.

The visitor breakfasted with members of the Arab-Brazilian Cooperation League, government officials, and relatives of Lamia Maruf.

Maruf's mother came to ask for 'Arafat's help in releasing the Brazilian woman who has been a prisoner for over nine years in Israel. This, however, was not necessary because 'Arafat said the Israeli Government has already promised to release Maruf within the next few days. [passage omitted]

In Congress, 'Arafat was received as a chief of state; there were messages thanking the Brazilian people for their support for the Palestinian cause, and an invitation for lawmakers to commemorate Christmas in Bethlehem, in 2000.

With the deputies, Yasir 'Arafat tried his first cup of coffee. He said it was impossible to visit Brazil without trying coffee.

'Arafat's final activity in the morning was a meeting with Federal District Governor Cristovam Buarque.

'Arafat is now attending a lunch hosted by the Palestinian community. He was awarded the title of "Honorary Citizen of Brasilia."

This is the first time 'Arafat has visited a South American country. He will stay less than 24 hours in Brazil. Late in the afternoon he will meet with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

According to Itamaraty, this is a political visit in which the Brazilian Government will reiterate its interest in signing cooperation agreements with the PLO and supporting the creation of a Palestinian state.

This evening, Jornal Nacional will feature an exclusive interview with Yasir 'Arafat.

'Exclusive' Interview to Rede Globo

PY1810033395 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, the guerrilla fighter who had put down his weapons and won the Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle to establish a Palestinian state, has arrived in Brazil. This is the first visit by PLO leader 'Arafat to a South American country.

In an exclusive interview with Rede Globo journalist Alexandre Garcia, 'Arafat said he is going to build an economic power in the Middle East and announced that Brazilian citizen Lamia Maruf, who is serving time in Israel, will be released.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] [passage omitted] What about the situation of Jerusalem?

['Arafat, in English with superimposed translation into Portuguese by Garcia] In any case, Jerusalem may become the capital city of two states: Palestine and Israel.

[Garcia] What will be the economic profile of the new Palestinian state?

['Arafat] On this, we are looking toward becoming another Singapore in the Middle East and we need investments. Israelis and Palestinians are now partners; they have always been cousins, as descendants of Abraham.

[Garcia] Let me ask you a personal question. For 30 years, you were a guerrilla leader. For a year and half now, you have been a head of state, the head of an administration. Which role do you like better?

['Arafat] Still combined. There is a complete combination between the two roles; that is, this now is a continuation of our long march toward building the Palestinian state. [end recording] [passage omitted]

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Meets With Cardoso

PY1810034595 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2206 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Report by Vanildo Mendes]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 17 Oct (AE) — The Brazilian Government has decided to send a team of specialists in education, health, mass immunization, and dentists to the Middle East this year to help the Palestinian people in their quest for building a new state. The information was conveyed today by Brazilian diplomats to Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian government, who is making an official visit to Brazil to convey his gratitude for the Brazilian support for the Palestinian cause and to ask for help to consolidate the Palestinian nation. 'Arafat was accorded honors due to heads of state.

The decision to send health and education specialists is the first step of a broad cooperation program between Brazil and the future Palestine state that will entail both trade and the establihsment of infrastructural facilities. The first direct elections will be held in Palestine in January, when members of parliament and a prime minister will be elected. 'Arafat, who is running for prime minster, and who today had an extremely busy schedule, was received early tonight by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

'Arafat arrived in Brasilia at 0300 today. At 0800, he had coffee with politicians and with relatives of Brazilian citizen Lamia Maruf, who has been serving time in an Israeli prison on charges of involvement in the killing of an Israeli soldier. At 1000, he visited the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, where he was welcomed by politicians of various ideological leanings, ranging from Senator Antonio Carlos Magalhaes (PFL-BA) [Liberal Front Party- Bahia] and Workers Party [PT] Deputy Maria Laura (DF) [Brasilia]. [sentence as received]

At noon, 'Arafat met with Brasilia Governor Cirstovam Buarque. Later, he held a private meeting with Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and [PT President] Jose Dirceu. An advocate of the Palestinian cause and a friend of 'Arafat, Lula hinted at praising the Brazilian administration's initiative to support the future Palestinian state. Lula said: "What they need now is concrete aid and, if Cardoso did that, he would certainly have the support of most Brazilians."

At 1500, 'Arafat met with Sepulveda Pertence, chief justice of the Brazilian Federal Supreme Court. [passage omitted]

'Satisfied' With Cardoso Meeting

PY1810034695 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 0016 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 17 Oct (AE) — Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Government, today praised the Brazilian democracy, "which has a strong opposition, but within the framework of the law." In a news conference held tonight at Itamaraty Palace, 'Arafat said he would like to set up a similar model, with ideological pluralism and a free market economy, in Palestine. He said: "It will be important for us to allow the Palestinian people to exercise that combination of democracy and opposition within the law."

Later, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso hosted a dinner for 'Arafat. After exchanging presents, Cardoso and 'Arafat announced their decision to work to strengthen ties and cooperation between their two peoples.

'Arafat said he had emerged satisfied from a meeting he held earlier tonight with Cardoso at Planalto Palace, at which time Cardoso promised him his full support for the Middle East peace effort.

'Arafat said: "Our delegation is leaving with a very positive impression because Brazil is willing to cooperate with the Palestinian cause." He made it clear he had not come to seek financial aid in Brazil. He noted, however, that "any Brazilian investment — whether governmental or private — will be welcomed at this time in which the Palestinian state is being rebuilt."

The future Palestinian state is scheduled to hold its first election of members of parliament and of a prime minister — for which 'Arafat will be running — in January. Thus, the second democracy following Western patterns will come into being in the Middle East, paradoxically in partnership with Israel. 'Arafat declined to criticize the other Arab regimes, but noted that he is "proud" of the model of democracy the Palestinians are building. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Cardoso paid tribute to 'Arafat as a man who won the Nobel Peace Price and as a negotiator of peace in the Middle East. He described 'Arafat as "a statesman" because he is a man who gives "a chance to peace, rather than to violence." Cardoso said he attaches significance to forming a partnership with the Palestinian government, and reaffirmed his desire to promote cooperation in education, health, and telecommunications with the Palestinian people.

'Arafat stated that Brazil has to assume the role to which it is entitled among the nations of the world by the end of this century. After praising the Brazilian

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people — by describing them as "true friends in times of crisis, without whom it would not have been possible to achieve peace in the Middle East" — 'Arafat announced that he had invited Pope John Paul II to visit Jerusalem to commemorate, in the year 2000, the "birth of the prophet of peace (Jesus Christ) in the land of peace, in the birthplace of religions."

Voices 'Optimism' About Hamas Talks

PY1810035795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0018 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia, 17 Oct (EFE) — Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the Palestinian government, today expressed his optimism about the outcome of the negotiations currently being held with the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas in Sudan with a view to promoting reconciliation and an agreement on national unity.

In a news conference held today in Brasilia, 'Arafat said: "The Palestinian Government's mission that met with the Hamas leaders abroad has returned to Palestine with a very positive impression. We greatly appreciate the Hamas leaders' willingness to negotiate with us and to accept the democratic process."

'Arafat stated that the Palestinian people at large are interested in taking part in a full democracy. He said that this is why "it is important that Hamas also share this view."

In its negotiations with the Hamas group, the Palestinian Government is trying to persuade Hamas to suspend its attacks on Israeli targets.

In return, Hamas — which has perpetrated several attacks that endangered the Palelstinian-Israeli peace negotiations — could take part in the elections to be held in the now autonomous West Bank and Gaza Strip. In accordance with the agreement signed with Israel, these elections — which will be the first in the history of the Palestinian people — will be held in mid-January.

Israel, which does not believe in the prospects of an agreement between Hamas — the Islamic Resistance Movement — and the Palestinian government, has threatened to delay the withdrawal of its troops from the West Bank if the Hamas attacks continue.

In a gesture designed to pave the way for an agreement with Hamas, the Palestinian government released Ahmed Bejer — a Hamas leader who had been imprisoned for four months — on 16 October.

'Arafat said: "The release was provided for under the agreements with Israel."

'Arafat added: "We appreciate Hamas' willingness to accept these negotiations and to take part in the elections because if they commit themselves to the Palestinian democratic process, it will play an important role as an opposition group." Hamas is the main opposition group to the PLO and to the agreements with Israel. [passage omitted]

Brazil, China To Create Agency To Fight Corruption

PY1710154795 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Oct 95 p 4

[Article by Deborah Berlinck]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva — Brazil and China will propose the creation of an agency — if possible linked with the United Nations — to deal with the problem of corruption. The agency will analyze the type of laws and world experiences with which it will be possible to fight corruption. Jose Gregori, coordinator of the new National Human Rights Plan, formulated the proposal in China during a United Nations-sponsored world conference on corruption.

Gregori explained that the Chinese Government liked the idea and will send technicians to Brasilia in November to help design the project. The idea is that the Brazilian and Chinese Governments will jointly make the proposal in December, during President Fernando Henrique Cardoso's visit to that country. Gregori said the project to create the agency, if accepted by the other United Nations members, may become a major source of international pressure for fighting corruption in several countries, including Brazil.

The Brazilian Government is also preparing a bill under which policemen charged with serious human rights violations — like the massacre of the abandoned children in Candelaria or the murder of landless people in Corumbiara — will no longer be judged by state military courts. Under the terms of the bill, those policemen will be tried by federal courts in Brasilia. The objective is to prevent political manipulation of this type of trial.

The project must be ready in December. This means Brazil will for the first time create the legal concept of human rights violation crimes. Gregori said he is preparing to face pressure from the military courts against the project. He warned, however, that the government will not change its mind:

"We are not afraid of stern-looking people," he said.

Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, director of the Study Group on Violence, of the Sao Paulo University, will prepare an outline of the future national human rights plan.

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Chile

Officials Comment on Laguna del Desierto Ruling

PY1710204195 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Oct 95 pp A1, A19

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Top Chilean Government officials yesterday agreed that Chile is experiencing a "trying" situation prompted by the adverse and definite ruling by the Arbitration Court which granted full sovereignty over Laguna del Desierto to Argentina.

The government also stressed its absolute intention to respect and observe the ruling, because Chilean foreign policy is based on this principle.

Government officials have firmly minimized, however, the opposition criticisms that political responsibility reportedly exists for this adverse ruling.

President Eduardo Frei has said that the government has made a continuous and constant effort, using all legal means provided by the Peace and Friendship Treaty signed with Argentina in 1984, to reverse the Arbitration Court ruling.

He said he shares the community's feeling of distress, because "no one likes to lose part of our territory. As president of the Republic, I share that feeling of all Chileans, and for me, it is an unfortunate situation."

He reaffirmed, however, the full decision to respect the ruling, based on Chilean tradition, "and for our security and for our peace, it is essential to preserve the inviolability of international treaties and to respect the legal framework which has been Chile's permanent policy."

He added that we must continue working with Argentina, a country with which there is a great future agenda concerning political, economic, and cultural matters, he said.

The president ruled out the possibility of submitting new appeals, because, according to the studies carried out, he said, they are not suitable. "It is a reconfirmed ruling, and I do not know what other types of appeals there are."

Supreme Court President Marcos Aburto, however, said that "unfortunately, what was said was fulfilled.... I only expected a miracle. That is bad luck.... Trials sometimes are lost because of bad luck, bad defense. This was a trial, and in a trial one must abide by the consequences and the risks that are associated with a trial."

Acting Army Commander General Guillermo Garin has said that he, personally, felt indignant, "and I even refuse to accept the idea of losing one single millimeter of our territory."

Navy Commander Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch said that as a Chilean, he was profoundly regretful and hurt. "But as a professional, it is not appropriate for me to study, analyze, and meditate over what is appropriate." [passage omitted]

Cordero Rusque Becomes Carabineros General Director

PY1710140495 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Oct 95 pp A1-A19

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Carabineros change of command was held yesterday as scheduled during a ceremony attended by top-ranking national officials. General Fernando Cordero Rusque, formerly Carabineros deputy director, is now the general director.

Cordero Rusque assumes his duties tomorrow when outgoing General Director Rodolfo Stange officially leaves his post. The change of command ceremony was set forward because President Eduardo Frei will leave for Bariloche today to attend the Ibero-American summit.

Frei stated that this change of command shows that the Chilean institutional process is completely normal and "the Carabineros will continue to fulfill the same role it has always fulfilled."

President Frei was accompanied at the change of command ceremony at the "General Carlos Ibanez del Campo" Carabineros School by Supreme Court President Marcos Aburto; Acting Army Commander Guillermo Garin; Navy Commander Jorge Martinez Busch; Acting Air Force Commander Jaime Estay; Santiago Archbishop Carlos Oviedo; cabinet members, legislators, the entire Carabineros high command; government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps. [passage omitted]

In his farewell speech, Gen. Rodolfo Stange said he decided to go into voluntary retirement "renouncing the remainder of my term established in the Constitution because I believe that in so doing I will help to avoid harming the institution and thus help to achieve the unity of the nation to which we all aspire."

Indirectly Stange criticized the bill amending the Armed Forces Organic Law that was submitted by the executive branch, stating that he fully trusts that "the changes that are being currently discussed will not harm the Carabineros or the military institution." He added: "The Carabineros do not deserve this, and even less Chile." [passage omitted]

Commenting on the ceremony, Defense Minister Edmundo Perez Yoma said that this is the first time in

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Carabineros history that a ceremony of this nature is held. He added that this shows the institutional process within the uniformed police is normal. He stated: "This is a significant ceremony which marks an important milestone. This is the first time there has been a change of command under completely normal circumstances without any trauma." [passage omitted]

Conference on Preventing Financial Crises Viewed

PY1710130695 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Oct 95 p B1

[By correspondent Luis Munoz in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The best ways to avoid bank crises in Latin America involve stability of the financial system, a solid fiscal and monetary discipline, and a strong banking system. These were some of the ideas and recommendations that emerged from an Inter-American Development Bank conference in this capital.

More than 300 financial experts attended the two-day seminar that ended this past weekend. They analyzed the problems caused by bank crises, especially those of the 1980's.

Chilean Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat participated in a panel on macroeconomic policies needed to avoid bank crises. He thoroughly analyzed regional problems and the lessons this left in his country.

Aninat made several warnings or recommendations, among them:

- That countries must make every possible effort to invest in prudent practices to avoid possible financial crises, because the most vulnerable sectors always pay for these crises.

He said: "We must learn from history. The lesson in the Chilean case emerges from the crisis the country experienced in the 1980's which still affects the private banks' debt with the Central Bank, which is finally being overcome after 15 years."

He added that the controllers, the Central Banks and private bankers, must oversee and be careful with the loans portfolio.

Aninat said: "It is easy to be dragged by illusions of the growth of financial assets and of the handling of liabilities, but we must always watch what is behind those illusions," like the real medium and long-term income tax rates, the productivitiy of companies, and the quality of businesses. [passage omitted]

'Agreements Reached' During Environment Meeting in Havana

PY1710125395 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 29 Sep 95 p C4

[FBIS Translated Text] Cabinet members and other government officials recently met in Havana to assess the continent's environmental situation. They approved several coordination mechanisms to be implemented by Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Genaro Arriagada, the secretary general of the Presidency and head of the National Environment Commission, Conama, board attended the meeting on behalf of Chile and returned on 28 September.

In a communique on the agreements reached, Arriagada said the meeting discussed the implementation of agreements reached during the UN Conference on Environment and Commission Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

During the meeting of 20 delegations, Arriagada stressed the United Nations Environment Program's, UNEP's, role in the region and the progress made on environmental issues.

Among other things, he cited a greater awareness of environment issues, the notorious consolidation of environmental institutions in different countries, the increasing and effective work by international organizations, and the strengthening of ties among governments.

Arriagada also said developing countries have cut their contributions in this area and noted that UN-linked organizations, mainly the UNEP, are experiencing difficult times.

The Chilean delegation that attended the meeting also included Jose Miguel Ovalle, Chilean Ambassador to the UNEP; Conama Representative Pedro Hernandez; and Juan Eduardo Eguiguren, director of the Foreign Ministry Environmental Department.

Progress in Trade Relations With South Korea Noted

PY1710124295 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Oct 95 p C7

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Francisco Mariano Fernandez yesterday praised the progress being made — despite the geographical distance — in relations with the Republic of South Korea, adding that this country will probably become our third most important commercial partner by the end of the year, after the United States and Japan.

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Fernandez reported on his negotiations during a two-day visit to Seoul during which he met with representatives of the Korean Government and private sectors, especially the main companies that have ties and connections with our country.

Within the framework of a tour to intensify ties with Asia-Pacific nations, Fernandez will leave today for New Zealand where he will participate in the joint commission of the two Foreign Ministries.

By phone, Fernandez said that in Seoul he reviewed the different aspects of bilateral ties as well as the multilateral action the two countries will undertake both at the level of the United Nations and during the next summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in November 1995 in Osaka.

In the multilateral area, he said that Chile and Korea are both running as candidates for their respective regions as nonpermanent members of the UN Security Council, for which they have the endorsement of their neighbors.

He said a seminar is being prepared within the government and private sector to intensify economic ties in which representatives of the Korean Government and private organizations will participate.

The possibilities offered by Korea and Chile will be displayed for businessmen from the two countries during this seminar.

Colombia

Foreign Minister Views Nonaligned Movement

PA1710224395 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Oct 95 p 5A

[Article by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo: "The Nonaligned Movement: A Window for Colombia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] Summit in Cartagena, Colombian Chief of State Ernesto Samper will receive the presidency of this group, which currently has 113 member nations.

As most international organizations, the NAM was born during the Cold War and is therefore currently undergoing a concept reorientation process.

Indonesian President Suharto, who is the current NAM leader, has introduced modernization elements that have created opportunities for the group within the international political situation. First, the old confrontational rhetoric has been replaced by actions aimed at strengthening international cooperation. Second, NAM countries have, as a priority, concentrated their efforts on economic and social issues affecting the developing world.

The truth is that NAM inspirators Tito, Nehru, Sukarno, and Nasser would not be pleased with present living conditions in the developing world. Each day, living conditions in the South are farther away from those prevailing in developed countries, although great progress has been made in fighting apartheid and colonialism and despite the fact that the so-called Third-World countries no longer have to align with either the First or Second Worlds.

Great changes in East-West relations have not been reflected in North-South relations. The globalization of the world's economy and other phenomena that were formerly of a national nature have forced developing countries to make great changes in their economic models (toward liberalization) and political models (toward greater democracy).

Mankind should find working mechanisms to deal together with issues affecting all the nations. It is essential that the developing world have the necessary mechanisms so as to strengthen its ability to negotiate at multilateral forums.

The issues of greatest concern for backward countries are in fact those included in all the meeting agendas of the G-7 [Group of Seven] and developed countries: multinational crime, environmental crisis, international trade, and reforms to the UN, among others. NAM countries should communicate with developed countries so that the solutions to these problems are not based exclusively upon the "North's standpoint" but also include the "outlook from the South."

Moreover, NAM countries of the nineties are linked to some of the most outstanding issues in current world politics. Countries from the former Yugoslavia as well as from the former Soviet Union have requested admission into NAM as either observers or full members. Russia itself has been invited to act as an observer at the summit in Cartagena. Leaders from the developing world who will meet in Cartagena will bear in mind the future role of these countries and the solution to Bosnia and Herzegovina's serious situation.

NAM countries have expressed their interest in establishing their position on some of the most outstanding issues in current world politics. For instance, nuclear tests by France and China are not exactly phenomena that would have been expected in the world after the Cold War. These concerns will force a reevaluation of the nuclear issue, disarmament, and the upcoming signature of a treaty forbidding nuclear tests.

In addition, there is interest in discussing various proposals to reform the UN system. Leaders from the developing world will meet two days before the

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commemoration of the UN 50th anniversary at a time when its modernization has been recommended to fulfill the dream of a multilateral organization that will a democratic and broad expression guaranteeing international law.

Over the next three years, Colombia will face a historical challenge. Just like NAM creators wished back in the forties, the developing world hopes that a fair and balanced international system is established during the current age and the 21st century. The objective is to establish cooperation programs on the basis of coordination, dialogue, and reciprocity.

Colombia has a great opportunity to promote a true opening and internationalization of its foreign relations. Society as a whole (the Foreign Ministry, news media, universities, and businessmen) will be forced to draw close to nations, regions, and continents that had not been familiar.

In the current world, and particularly that of the future — it is essential to have crossing bridges to Asia and Africa — regions which are distant from Colombia not only from a geographical standpoint but also politically, economically, and culturally.

In a globalized and interdependent world, one should think and act in terms of a community of nations and a worldwide village where decisions are being made that directly affect Colombia. The NAM presidency will connect the country with main international realities so as to leave behind trends toward isolation and introspection (toward becoming a "South American Tibet"), which in the 21st century will not be viable alternatives, but without any doubt will be a direct road toward failure.

Trade Official Opposes Restrictions on Local Exports

PA1810024295 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Oct 95 pp 4-B, 5-B

[Report by Maria Victoria Cristancho]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Mauricio Reina has affirmed that the fact that Venezuela wants to limit or restrict Colombian imports to resolve a foreign exchange problem is inadmissible for Colombia. The Colombian official described as quite worrisome a measure of this nature being added to the suspension on debt payments owed to Colombian exporters, because "it would make the commercial relations" that have been so successful in the past three years "vulnerable. We understand that this is the position taken by one of the board members who supports the recommendation made to the Venezuelan Government to restrict imports from Venezuela's trading partners," Reina pointed out.

According to the Colombian deputy minister, "in this context, we hope that the Venezuelan Government and the members of the Foreign Exchange Board [JAC] take into account the fact that the commercial relations Venezuela and Colombia have developed in the last three years has been basically significant for the two countries' exporting dynamism." In his opinion, "this situation is not too clear for us, taking into consideration that, on the one hand, Colombia is one of the two partners purchasing Venezuelan products and, on the other hand, the bilateral trade balance clearly favors Venezuela.

"In addition, with the existence of the Aladi [Latin American Integration Association] payment agreement, Venezuela does not use foreign exchange in its commercial relations with Colombia." Reina explained that these "are sufficient arguments to show how economically irrational this proposal is. We hope that the Venezuelan Government and the JAC will understand this position."

The bilateral trade balance recorded a $634 million deficit for Colombia. This deficit was also observed between January and June 1995, when the Colombian trade balance deficit amounted to $296 million.

In 1994, Colombia exported $530 million worth of products to Venezuela, while Colombian exports to Colombia amounted to $1.165 billion. [sentence as published]. This trend was also observed during the first half of 1995, because Colombian exports totalled $396 million, while Venezuelan exports amounted to $692 million.

Ecuador

Prosecutor: Duran-Ballen 'Might Face' Criminal Charges

PY1810032595 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Quito — Chief Prosecutor of the Nation Fernando Casares today warned that President Sixto Duran-Ballen might face the same criminal charges brought against his former Vice President Alberto Dahik for the alleged misappropriation of public discretionary funds.

Exactly six days ago, Casares announced in the morning that Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ] President Carlos Solorzano could order the preventive arrest of then Vice President Alberto Dahik, which did happen a few hours later.

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Do not forget that the vice president of the Republic was accused and that a preventive arrest warrant was issued against him. This shows the correct and severe manner in which the CSJ president acts, Casares said to reporters, who insisted on the possible inclusion of the Ecuadoran president in the criminal action.

Casares added that if his inclusion becomes essential because procedural circumstances thus demand, the CSJ president can accuse anyone so that no one can think that someone can be escape the force of the law.

Casares recalled that during a de facto regime, the court did have access to information on discretionary funds expenditures, which allowed it to identify Army General Bolivar Jarrin Cahuenas, government minister of the military junta that ruled Ecuador from 1976 to 1979, under the command of Admiral Alfredo Poveda Burbano, as responsible for the death of then presidential candidate Abdon Calderon Munoz.

One of Calderon's murderers was paid with money from the Government Ministry discretionary funds. This was one of the reasons for which the minister of that time was sentenced, Casares recalled. For this reason, he said, it is not true that no one has been able to examine the expenditures of discretionary funds, he said.

Alarcon Criticizes Duran-Ballen for Summoning Congress

PY1810030695 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Ecuadoran Vice President Fabian Alarcon has considered hasty and inconsistent the presidential decision to call for a special Congress session to elect the new vice president of the Republic.

Alarcon said that Duran-Ballen has not yet even sent the list of candidates for the Vice Presidency; how, then, can the special session be advanced by one day, when Acting Congress President Franco Romero had already announced that it would be held on Thursday.

[Begin Alarcon recording] I would like to fully reject the wave of speculations, which has no good effect for Ecuador. I think we must act seriously. I want to repeat that I do not find consistency in the calling for a special session tomorrow. I do think, however, that Congress must agree to designate a new vice president from among the candidates submitted by the president of the Republic.

I want to make an observation: Does anyone in the country know for sure the list of candidates submitted by the president? The special Congress session is scheduled for tomorrow, and yet does anyone today know the names of the candidates for certain? No one does. Everything is just speculation. They are all rumors. I think that out of respect for the country, a Congress session cannot be held by sending a proposal a half hour or one hour earlier. I think that out of respect for the country, the list should be released as soon as possible so that the Ecuadoran deputies can study those names and decide, within a 24-hour period, on whom to vote for. [end recording]

The current interim vice president of Ecuador will work in his congressional office during the time he holds his vice presidential post. He said that he will not make any decision on the matter during the two or three days he might hold the post of vice president of the Republic.

Ruling Party Deputies Warn of Possible Coup

PY1710220295 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputies of the ruling Conservative Party of National Unity, the PCUN, today warned of a possible coup d'etat in Ecuador within the democratic framework [golpe de estado democratico], in which the legislative and judicial branches are reportedly involved.

PCUN Deputy Leonardo Escobar said that with the delay in designating Alberto Dahik's successor, the idea is to create chaos, to conduct a democratic coup [golpe democratico], and achieve or realize the famous succession to President Sixto Duran-Ballen. Congress accepted Dahik's resignation last night.

Escobar's arguments are based on the fact that within the framework of the criminal action established by the Supreme Court against Dahik for presumed unlawful use of discretionary funds, the same charges can be brought against the president of the Republic.

Escobar directly accused the Democratic People's Movement of trying to unleash chaos and anarchy and of trying to include Duran-Ballen in the criminal action against Dahik, so as to achieve, in this manner, a succession in terms of power.

Another deputy, Freddy Bravo, referring to the session that decided to accept Dahik's resignation, said that at the building next door — referring to the Supreme Court of Justice, which is next to the Legislative Palace, the acting vice president is trying to carry out a coup d'etat.

Although Congress has been called to a special session on Thursday to designate the new Ecuadoran vice president, Duran-Ballen decided to hold this session earlier, that is, tomorrow, Wednesday.

Fabian Alarcon, the president of Congress and, since yesterday, the interim vice president, termed the gov-

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ernment initiative meddling. Alarcon expressed surprise over Duran-Ballen's decision to convene Congress earlier, and said that he continues holding talks with the president to designate Dahik's successor by consensus.

Juan Jose Castello, leader of the Democratic People's Movement and presidential candidate, has said that democracy will be strengthened if it can face corruption and the corrupt people within the democratic framework. In fact, this can be applied at all levels, including the president of the Republic. The new vice president must be an individual capable of assuming higher responsibilities, such as assuming the presidency should Duran-Ballen refuse to hand over the microfilms and be included in the criminal action, because he could also face a preventive arrest warrant for obstructing investigations, Castello said.

Deputies Welcome Duran-Ballen's Call for Congress Session

PY1710232095 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The call to a special Congress session on 18 October made by President Sixto Duran-Ballen to elect the new vice president of the Republic was welcomed by deputies representing various political leanings. Most agreed that this chapter of Ecuadoran political history must be concluded as soon as possible.

Freddy Bravo, of the Conservative Party of National Unity [PCUN], has said that the president has the right to summon Congress to a special session because it is the best thing for the country. He added that it is not necessary for the new vice president of the Republic to be a member of the PCUN.

[Begin recording] [Bravo] It is absolutely legal. In view of certain activities by the acting leaders, the country wants the designation of the new vice president to be handled on an urgent basis, and this has to be done.

[Unidentified reporter] Why wasn't Congress allowed to call for this special session?

[Bravo] Because as you saw yesterday, the Congress president said: Tomorrow I will think about whether I will summon Congress for a session the day after tomorrow.

The president has convened Congress to a session before, and has sent notes to the media. And you, as representatives of the media, know the deadline for messages that must be published the following day. [end recording]

Deputy Javier Neira, of the Christian Democratic Party, also said that the call for a congressional session is quite sound, and that they will support the list of three candidates the president of the Republic will submit this afternoon or tomorrow, to choose one for the Vice Presidency.

Congress is preparing to meet tomorrow, 18 October, to elect the next vice president. The initial call made by acting Congress President Franco Romero was set for Thursday, 19 October, but President Duran-Ballen decided to hold this session earlier, on Wednesday, 18 October.

According to a legislative branch source, Congress will thus comply with President Sixto Duran-Ballen's call to a special session to designate the new vice president of Ecuador. Duran-Ballen certainly must have sufficient reasons to act in this manner. Acting Congress President Franco Romero said that the idea is to respect the call made by the president.

Duran-Ballen has thus managed to impose his will on the legislative branch, calling for a special session to elect a new vice president of the Republic. Duran-Ballen has summoned Congress to a special session to begin Wednesday at 2100, while Congress had announced that these sessions would begin on Thursday. The call has been made in a hasty manner, but within the framework of the provisions of the Constitution, Romero said.

The government decision has been bitterly criticized by Acting Vice President Fabian Alarcon, who said that this could lead to a break in dialogue between the executive and legislative branches. The president's call is very symptomatic and surprising now that dialogue is sought between Congress and the government to reach a consensus to choose a new vice president, Alarcon said.

Paraguay

First Lady Visits Peace Corps Site; Media Complaints Noted

PY1710175595 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Report by Manuel Cuenca]

[FBIS Translated Text] Immediately after arriving in Paraguay the U.S. first lady went to the Ycua Sati retreat, where journalists had been waiting for her for more than two hours without being allowed into the premises. Disabled children and young people were also kept waiting outside, while special guests and Peace Corps volunteers were free to go in and take their places. Arguments between journalists and White House officials erupted when the latter gave priority to journalists traveling with the delegation.

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[Begin recording] [Unidentified journalist] I ask you, is this the equality you preach?

[Unidentified U.S. official, in Spanish] Everybody will be treated equally.

[Unidentified journalist] No they are not, at least not so far. [end recording]

Despite the security personnel, journalists managed to get into the Ycua Sati chapel, where Hillary Clinton held her first meeting with Peace Corps volunteers and their Paraguayan counterparts who recounted their experiences in the areas of health, education, environmental contamination, and the work of midwives in different parts of the country.

[Begin unidentified midwife recording] I have been a self-taught midwife — that is what we call ourselves — for 25 years, ever since I left home. I have been taking care of deliveries since then. [end recording]

Hillary asked many questions and even signed autographs.

[Begin Clinton recording, in English fading into Spanish report] Do you midwives have available the supplies to handle deliveries at home, which in other countries is provided by the Health Ministry? [end recording]

A larger meeting with Peace Corps volunteers was held at the Ycua Sati main hall. Hillary was welcomed with applause and was presented with a soccer ball manufactured by a small rural enterprise where U.S. volunteers work.

The director of the Peace Corps in Washington emphasized the importance of the job of providing technical aid while learning about Paraguayan culture. The U.S. first lady took advantage of the opportunity to point out that it is necessary to strengthen not only democracy but also economic development and social investments such as health and education.

[Begin Clinton recording, in progress, in English fading into Spanish report] ...democracy, economic development, and social investments are the three components for a sound future. [end recording]

Ms. Clinton also emphasized that Peace Corps volunteers frequently take the work that they have been doing in Paraguay back to the United States, where many former Peace Corps workers continue doing social work.

Although the meeting was focused on the work of Peace Corps volunteers in Paraguay, Hillary Clinton did not miss the opportunity to firmly and emphatically address the need for democracy, economic development, and social investment.

Hillary Clinton Performs 'Faultlessly' at Summit

PY1710201695 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Oct 95

[Station commentary: "Observation Point"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hillary Clinton's powerful statement in favor of women was in keeping with her background. The Fifth Conference of First Ladies of the Americas taking place in Asuncion gave Mrs. Clinton the opportunity to advocate a more egalitarian community based on respect for and promotion of women.

She talked about household violence, productivity, and the positive results that assistance to rural women yields. The IDB alone will now be able to invest almost $1.5 billion in programs to improve the fortune of women. The IDB this morning showed a documentary film that it had prepared on the projects being implemented in Paraguay.

Hillary Clinton, a law graduate from Yale University and a key political player in Washington, emphasized the need to understand that there will be no development as long as women are left aside.

The first ladies' summit was a good opportunity to reiterate old and new ideas on the promotion of human beings, particularly women, and Mrs. Clinton accomplished this faultlessly.

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